

# Manufacturing Demonstration Facility (MDF) & Carbon Fiber Technology Facility (CFTF)

Oak Ridge National Laboratory

---

Blake Marshall, Advanced Manufacturing Office  
Merlin Theodore, Oak Ridge National Laboratory  
Alan Liby, Oak Ridge National Laboratory

U.S. DOE Advanced Manufacturing Office Technical Resources &  
Networking Forum  
Washington, D.C.  
June 15, 2017

# Program Introduction: What is the MDF?

## MDF Mission

Develop and mature **additive manufacturing and composite technologies** for clean energy applications.

## MDF Vision

A competitive America using **additive and composite processes** in mainstream manufacturing industries.

### 1. *Core Research and Development*

- **Long-term** R&D in materials, systems, and computation

### 2. *Industry Collaborations*

- **Short-term** collaborative R&D on energy-related fields

### 3. *Education and Training*

- Internships, academic collaborations, workshops, training programs, and university/college curriculum.



# Program Introduction: What is the MDF?

## Materials Suppliers



## Equipment Suppliers



## End Users



This presentation does not contain any proprietary, confidential, or otherwise restricted information.

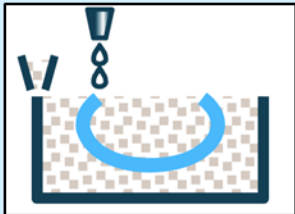
# Program Introduction: What is the MDF?



**Vat Photo-  
polymerization**



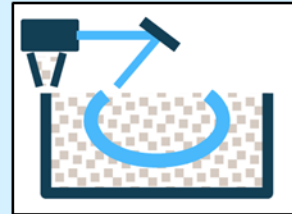
**Material  
Jetting**



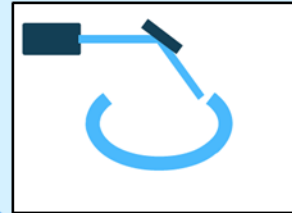
**Binder  
Jetting**



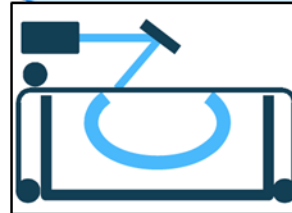
**Material  
Extrusion**



**Powder Bed  
Fusion**



**Directed Energy  
Deposition**



**Sheet  
Lamination**

**Roland Berger**  
Strategy Consultants

*Industrially relevant, manufacturing-scale equipment focus*

*Targeting large, fast, cheap production and high performance systems for industry*

This presentation does not contain any proprietary, confidential, or otherwise restricted information.

# Program Introduction: Industry Collaborations

DOE National Labs are a world-class **public** resource

## Neutron scattering: SNS and HFIR

- World's most intense pulsed neutron beams
- World's highest flux reactor-based neutron source

## Leadership-class computing: Titan

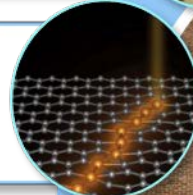
- Nation's most powerful open science supercomputer

## Advanced materials

- DOE lead lab for basic to applied materials R&D
- Technology transfer: Billion dollar impacts

## Advanced manufacturing

- Novel materials
- Advanced processing



*How do Labs “open the doors” to industry?  
How to small businesses access these resources?*



# Program Introduction: Industry Collaborations

## Explore

- Opportunity for industry to discover and apply new manufacturing technologies

## Engage

- Work with MDF staff to develop scope of work

## Execute

- Phase 1 \$40K, Phase 2 \$200K
- 1:1 Cost Match
- Non-Negotiable CRADA
- ~90-day cycle time from review to a signed agreement
- Always available



### Quick Facts

- >100 active or completed projects across 7 technologies
- >60 completed projects
- >75 publications this year
- >17,000 visitors

# Program Success: MDF Program



July 2012



ORNL, Arcam sign CRADA for alloy development, process reliability

Feb 2013



Arcam and DiSanto Technology (Shelton, CT) sign Strategic Alliance

June 2014



Arcam launches Inconel 718 developed with ORNL

Jan 2015



ORNL and Honeywell produce In718 aerospace component

March 2016



Inauguration of Woburn, MA Office

Sept 2016



GE to buy SLM, Arcam for \$1.4 billion in 3D printing push

- CEO Relocates to US
- 50% Arcam employees in North America
- Acquisition of DiSanto and AP&C

*“With the MDF and your help, we have been able to reach world leading research as well as a lot of potential customers”*

...“strong development has to a great extent been possible due to your firm [ORNL, MDF]”...

Magnus Rene, CEO and President of Arcam

## Technical Collaborations:



# Program Success: MDF Program

Feb 2014



ORNL,  
Cincinnati  
sign  
CRADA

Sept 2014



Strati car  
printed live at  
IMTS Show

Jan 2015



Cincinnati  
BAAM v2;  
Shelby  
Cobra  
goes  
global

Sept 2015



Additive  
Manufactu  
red  
Integrated  
Energy

Sept 2016



ORNL  
receives  
GUINNESS  
World  
Record

Jan 2017



TPI uses  
3D printed  
wind  
blade  
mold

## Creation of Large-scale Polymer Industry

- 13 BAAM Units Sold
- Over 7 AM Equipment Manufacturers Using/Evaluating Technology
- 10s to 100s of End Users Evaluating the Technology
- New Materials Suppliers



## Technical Collaborations:





# Program Success: MDF Industry Collaborations



Rigorous evaluation of Techmer's line of high performance thermoplastic materials for BAAM.

Techmer has sold \$1M of pellet feedstock material for AM in last year

TECHMERES  
ENGINEERED SOLUTIONS

TECHMER PM  
POLYMER MODIFIERS

+1.865.457.6700

Industries Processes Products News Sustainability Culture About Contact Tools

SETTING THE TECHNOLOGY STANDARD

INNOVATION THROUGH MATERIALS DESIGN

We partner with plastics processors, designers, and OEMs to solve key business problems via materials design

Techmer PM Solutions Address Customer Needs

Techmer PM provides solutions for industries ranging from agricultural to personal care, and processes as diverse as blow molding and nonwovens. Below is a sample of the industries and processes for which we provide solutions.

view all industries ->

view all processes ->

***“Our innovative carbon-fiber materials are specially formulated for the growing 3-D printing market,” - Tom Drye, managing director of Techmer ES.***

Materials

# Program Success: MDF Industry Collaborations

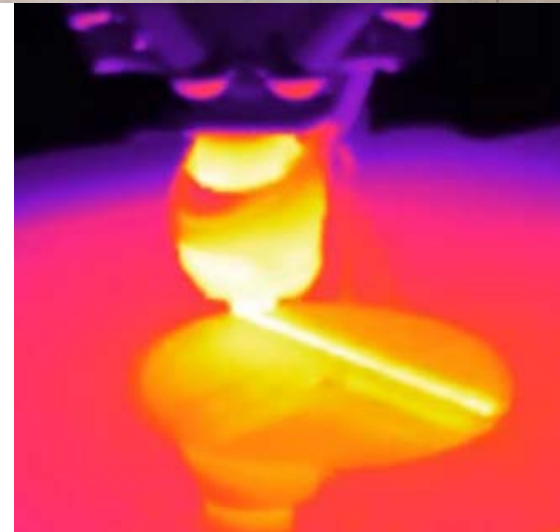
## *Ajax TOCCO*

Ajax TOCCO and ORNL created an induction system for heating Fused Deposition Modeling (FDM)

Wider variety of materials including certain metals

Very low cost and efficient power supply

Response time to 230°C is 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of resistive heating system



Process

# Program Success: MDF Industry Collaborations



**Cummins, Inc.**

## Low-Cost Injection Mold via Hybrid & Conventional Manufacturing

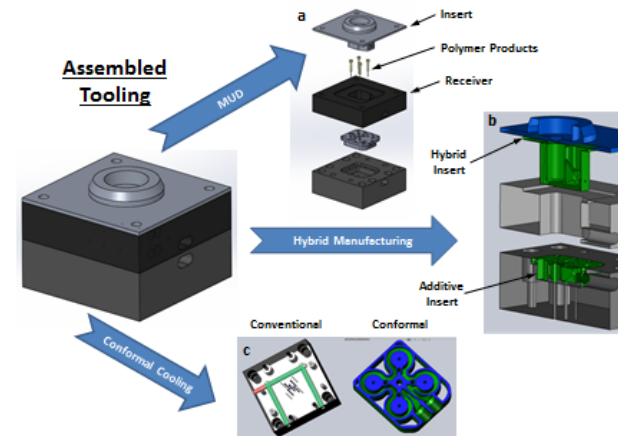
Injection molding tooling costs reduced by > 50%

Parts cooled 25% faster via additive manufacturing (AM) cooling passages

Cummins planning to use permanent basis

Cummins now working with ExOne (process OEM at MDF) on stand-alone partnership.

This presentation does not contain any proprietary, confidential, or otherwise restricted information.



*“That’s why we like to leverage partnerships with Oak Ridge... We can work with them and increase our comfort level with a new technology before we invest and incorporate it into our own facilities.”*

*Roger England, Director of Materials Engineering and Technology, Cummins*

End user

# Manufacturing Demonstration Facility (MDF) & Carbon Fiber Technology Facility (CFTF)

Oak Ridge National Laboratory

---

Blake Marshall, Advanced Manufacturing Office  
Merlin Theodore, Oak Ridge National Laboratory  
Alan Liby, Oak Ridge National Laboratory

U.S. DOE Advanced Manufacturing Office Technical Resources &  
Networking Forum  
Washington, D.C.  
June 15, 2017



# Carbon Fiber Technology Facility

Reduce carbon fiber cost by using low cost alternative precursors

Produce quantities of low cost carbon fiber for material and process evaluations and prototyping

Develop training program for the future advanced carbon fiber and composites workforce



*The Carbon Fiber Technology Facility (CFTF) serves as a national resource to assist industry in overcoming the barriers of carbon fiber cost, technology scaling, and product and market development. CFTF is intended to be the bridge from R&D to deployment and commercialization and other clean energy applications.*



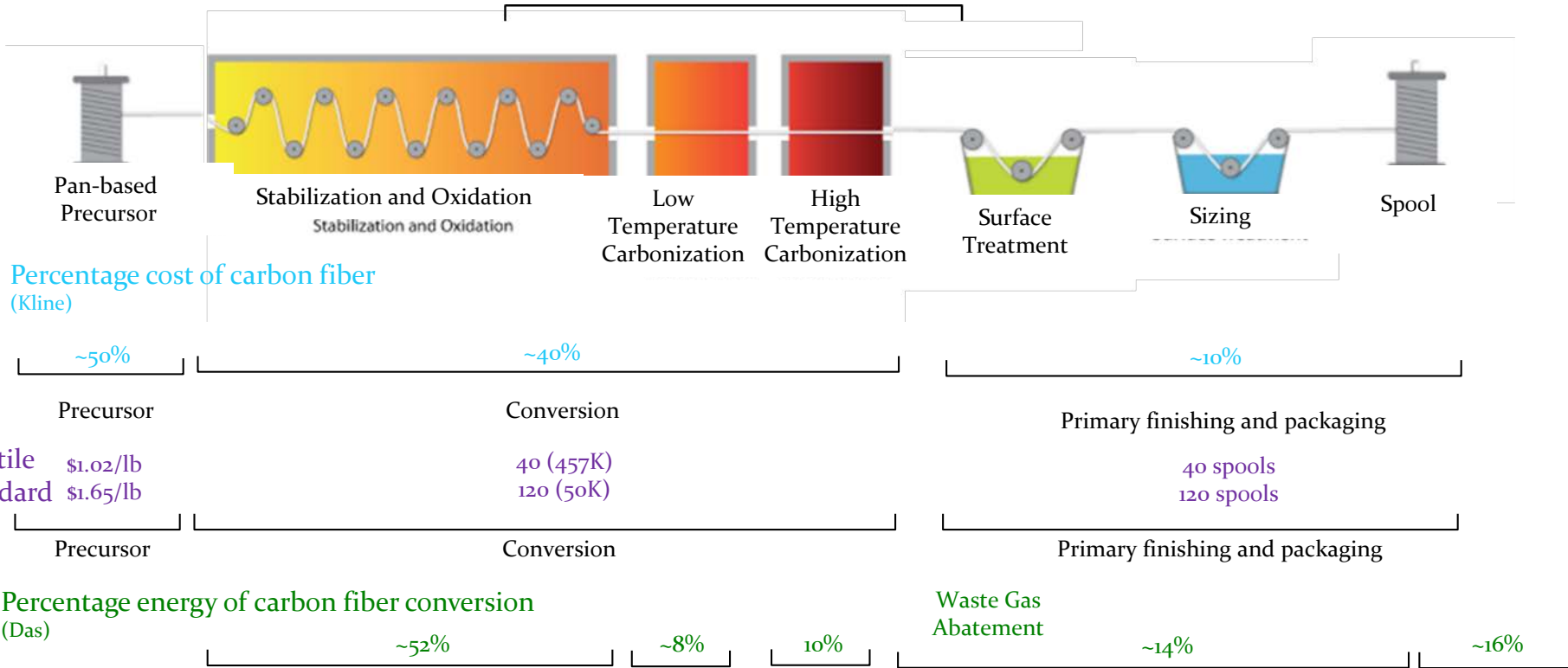
# Project Objectives

- Develop and demonstrate carbon fiber production using lower-cost precursor materials at semi-production scale.
- Produce and make available low-cost carbon fiber in sufficient quantity to enable evaluation and market development for application of carbon fiber composites with lower cost and environmental impact.
- Enable development of domestic commercial sources for production of low-cost carbon fiber, including workforce development.
- Develop additional precursors and deeper understanding of process variables and control to enable further reductions in cost and energy impact of CFRP composites.

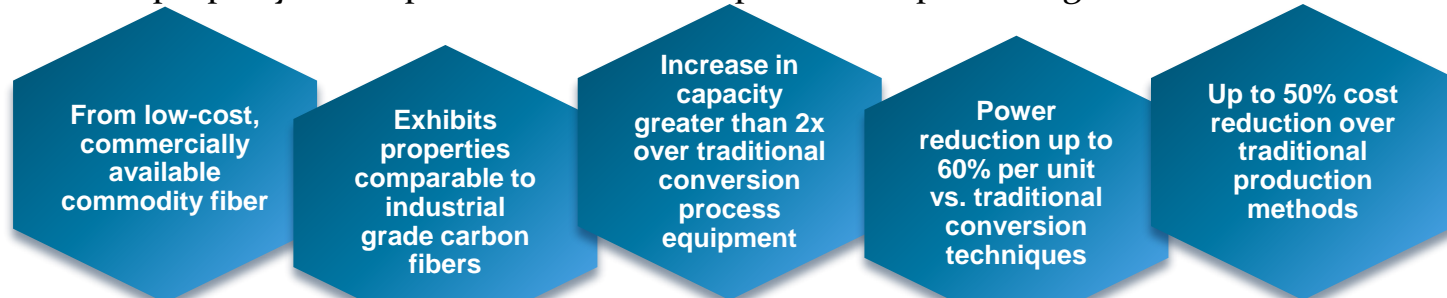
# Technical Innovation

## Carbon Fiber Conversion Process

### Waste Gas Abatement



## Intellectual property developed around scalable process for producing low cost carbon fiber

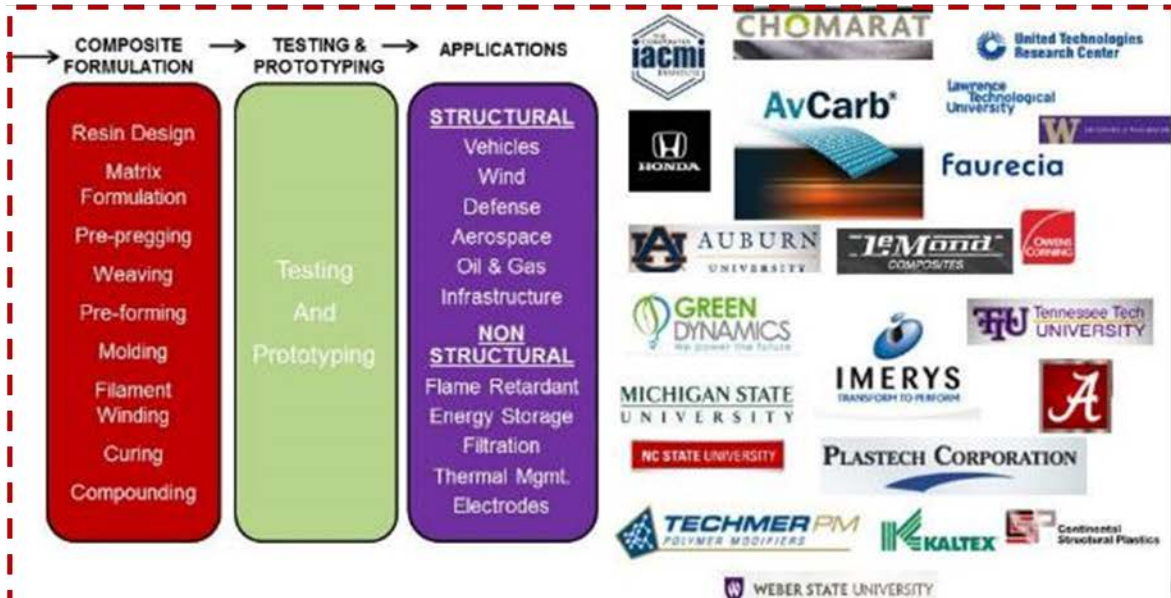
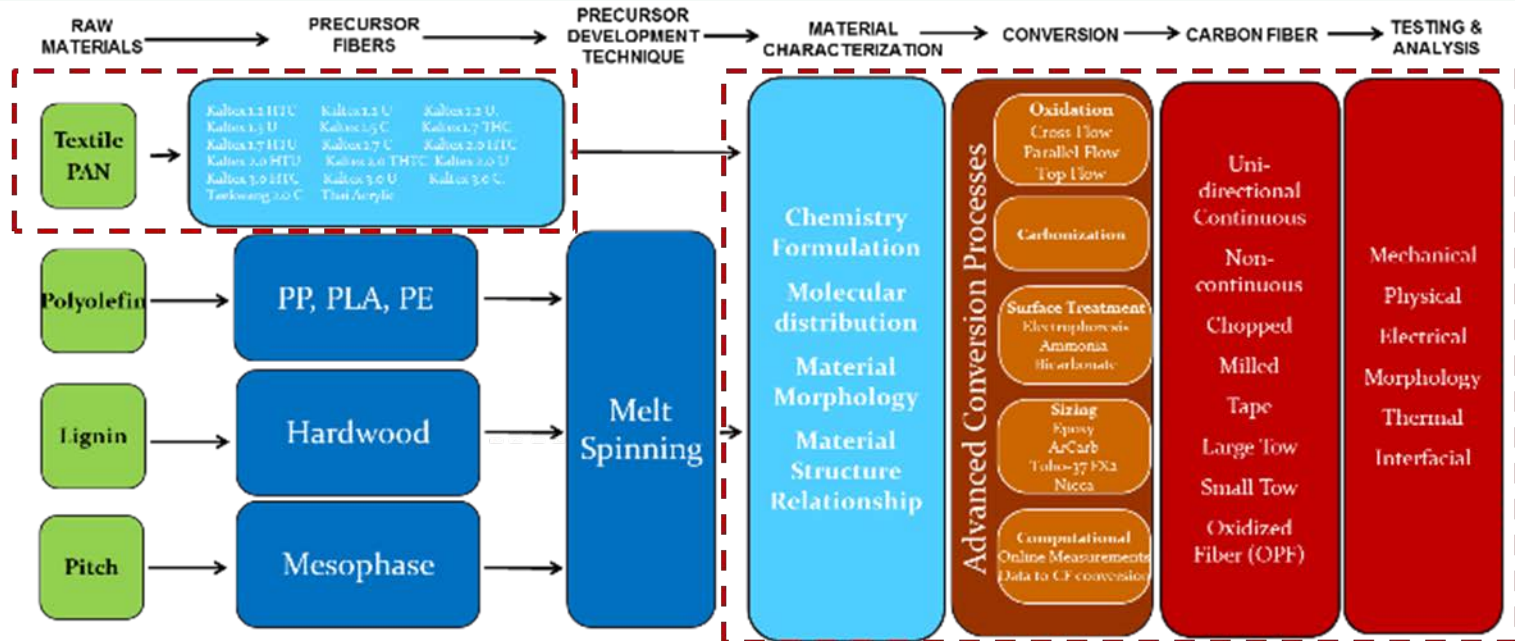


# Technical Approach

---

- Integrated approach to low-cost carbon fiber manufacturing R&D
- Identify high potential, low cost alternative precursors
  - PAN-based Textile Precursors
- Develop optimal mechanical properties of resultant carbon fiber from alternative precursors and correlate structure-property relationships.
- Provide sample quantities with favorable properties to industrial partners for testing based on DOE approval
- Address feedback from industrial partners
- Improve carbon fiber manufacturing costs metrics
- Industry collaborations

# Technical Approach



- ### Project Risks and Unknowns
- Process scalability
  - Precursor Optimization
  - Process impact on CF properties
  - Instrumentation and controls
  - Conversion of usable intermediates
  - Availability of tooling that can handle large tows
  - Packaging and handling
  - Workforce Development
- erwise restricted information.

# Results and Accomplishments

## Technical Accomplishments:

- Demonstrated large volume carbon fiber production utilizing multiple sources of PAN-based textile precursors at a semi-production scale. CFTF have >20 varieties from four suppliers and demonstrated the conversion of 13 types from two of the suppliers thus far.
- Demonstrated reproducible process conditions with multiple lots taking into consideration all variation typical to carbon fiber manufacturing.
- Demonstrated commercially viable properties in comparison to standard and intermediate commercial carbon fiber at ~50% reduction in energy consumption and production cost based on volume throughput (2x).
- Publicly announced breakthrough and acquired 2 licensees and 1 CRADA for the technology. Established several significant collaborations with industries and academic entities to help create market pull for low-cost, industrial grade carbon fiber.
- Development of skilled workforce: Six technology interns are now employed by a licensee, Three technology interns are now employed by UT-Battelle.

Property (Cross-ply)	LCCE (53% W <sub>f</sub> ) Epoxy	Zoltek (60% W <sub>f</sub> ) Epoxy
Tensile strength MPa (ksi)	550 (79.77)	700 (101.52)
Tensile modulus GPa (Msi)	60 (8.70)	58 (8.41)
Flexural strength Mpa (ksi)	600 (87.02)	750 (108.77)
Flexural Modulus Gpa (Msi)	50 (7.25)	48 (6.96)
ILSS, Mpa (ksi)	TBD	48 (6.96)

Credit to IACMI partner



# Transition and Deployment

- Licensing opportunity
  - Two Licensees
  - One Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA)
  - Another License and CRADA in progress and awaiting approval
- Deployment
  - Over 50 collaborated requests/projects with academia, industry, and other national Labs.
- Mission and Capabilities
  - Industry are able to adopt new opportunities using CF
  - Enhance their processes and capabilities, thus expand their Market growth.

**Early June 2015**  
Invitations to  
Negotiate  
Licenses

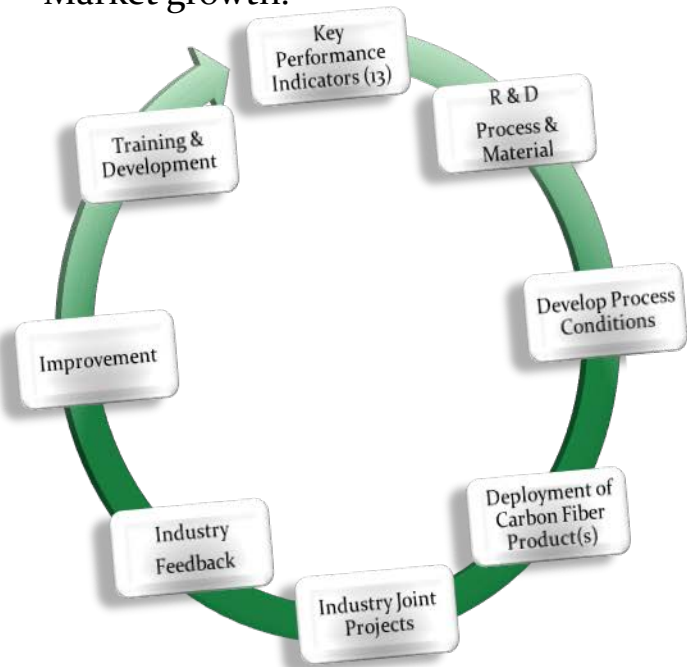
↓

**August 2016**  
Two Licensees

↓

**May 2017**  
DOE approved  
CRADA

Company	Industry Type	Application	Status	Material Type	Tow
Manasse Plastics North America, Inc.	End-User	Compounding and testing	Shipped	Carbon Fiber	487K
Subum Unilevelity	Academia/R&D	Academic R&D	Shipped	Carbon Fiber	533K
LiCap Material Solutions	End-User	Evaluate/replacement raw material source, preserve US manufacturing jobs	Shipped	Carbon Fiber	343K
EST Nano Carbon	End-User	Package evaluation sample	Shipped	Carbon Fiber	457K
Chomarat North America	End-User	Fabric evaluation, USCAR project	Shipped	Carbon Fiber	611K
Domerat Textiles Industries (France)	End-User	IACMI BMW Wind blade project	Shipped	Carbon Fiber	457K
Composites (FR)	End-User	Consortium automotive project	Shipped	Carbon Fiber	533K
Continental Structural Plastics	End-User	Large low weaving evaluation	Shipped	Carbon Fiber	611K
Light Group	End-User	Evaluation of fiber for automotive application	Shipped	Carbon Fiber	457K
Vites	End-User	Sample	Shipped	Carbon Fiber	533K
Automotive Composites (France)	End-User	RTM evaluation in automotive and test trial	Shipped	Carbon Fiber	457K
Indesit University	Academia/R&D	Sample for resonance	Shipped	Carbon Fiber	365K
Vegetal Alcatraz B&B	Producer	Sample for resonance	Shipped	Carbon Fiber	365K



A new composites company founded by Tour de France champion Greg LeMond has signed a licensing agreement with the Oak Ridge National Laboratory to commercially produce low cost carbon fiber. The agreement will make the Oak Ridge-based LeMond Composites the first company to offer this new carbon fiber to the transportation, renewable energy, and infrastructure markets and will result in:

- 242 new, highly skilled jobs
- \$125M investment locally
- 10 lines producing 140 million lbs. by 2020
  - 16-20 million lbs. in the first year
- New production method reduces production cost by more than 50% and energy consumption by more than 60%