

# Center for Automotive Research Hexion Fire Resistant Material Solutions for EV Battery Enclosures

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# Today's Seminar Goals

- To provide an overview of Hexion's material solutions for safer and lightweight EV battery enclosures
  - Fire resistant
  - Lightweight
  - Easily integrated with proven technologies and design approaches
  - Cost effective



# Who is Hexion?

Hexion is one of the world's largest producers of thermosetting resins and a leading producer of coatings, adhesives and specialty resins.

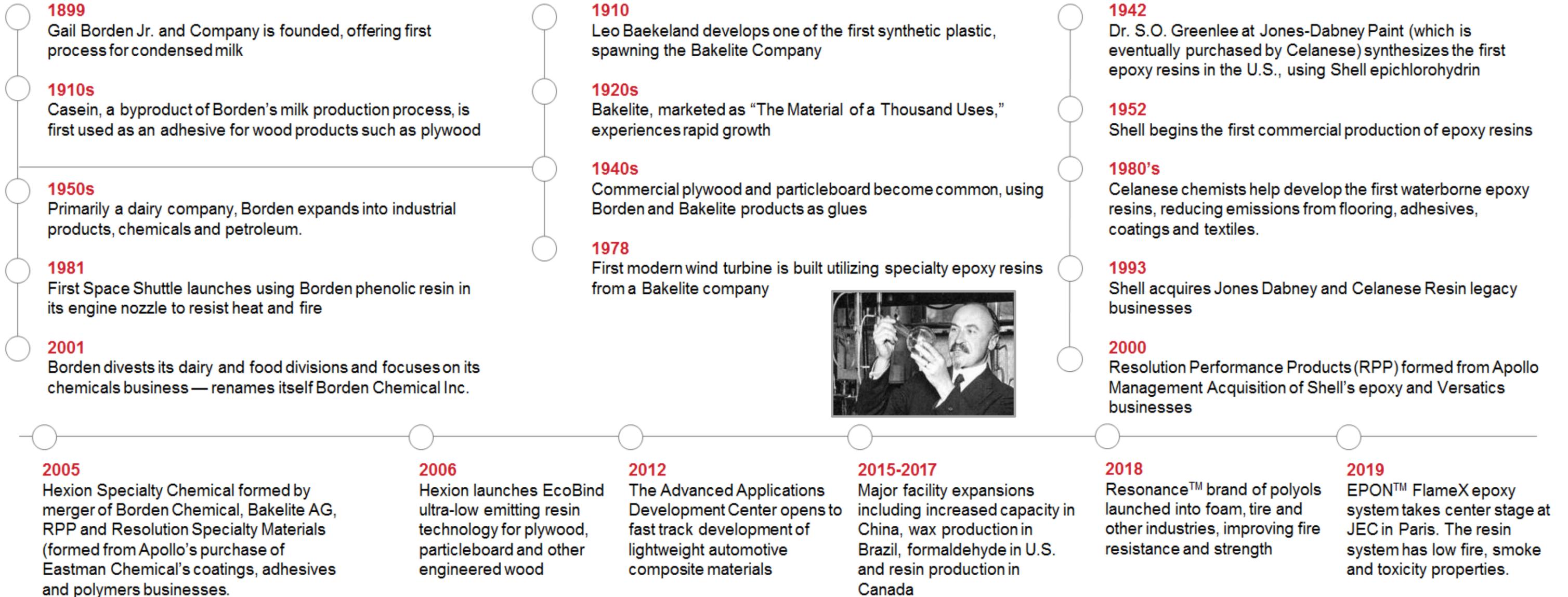
Our specialty chemicals are critical components in most paints, coatings, binders and other adhesives that serve a diverse range of industries and provide valuable performance characteristics of durability, gloss, heat resistance, adhesion or strength of the final product.

# Hexion's Business Heritage

A history of firsts in the chemicals industry and continued growth spanning more than a century



Borden Chemical



# A Strong Global Presence Serving Customers Worldwide

Forty-seven (47) Production Sites Around the World in 85 Countries



**A leading  
global  
specialty  
materials  
supplier**

Base Epoxy Resins & Coatings



Specialty Epoxy Resins

Forest Product Resins



**#1 IN INDUSTRY**



**#1 IN INDUSTRY**

Phenolic Specialty Resins



**#1 IN INDUSTRY**

Versatic™ Acids & Derivatives



**#1 IN INDUSTRY**



## Hexion at a Glance

- Based in Columbus, Ohio USA
- 2019 Global Sales of US\$3.8 Billion
- Nearly 50 facilities globally
- Approximately 4,000 employees
- More than 3,000 customers across various end-use markets
- More than 800 active patent files and over 800 trademark files

### Primary Technologies:

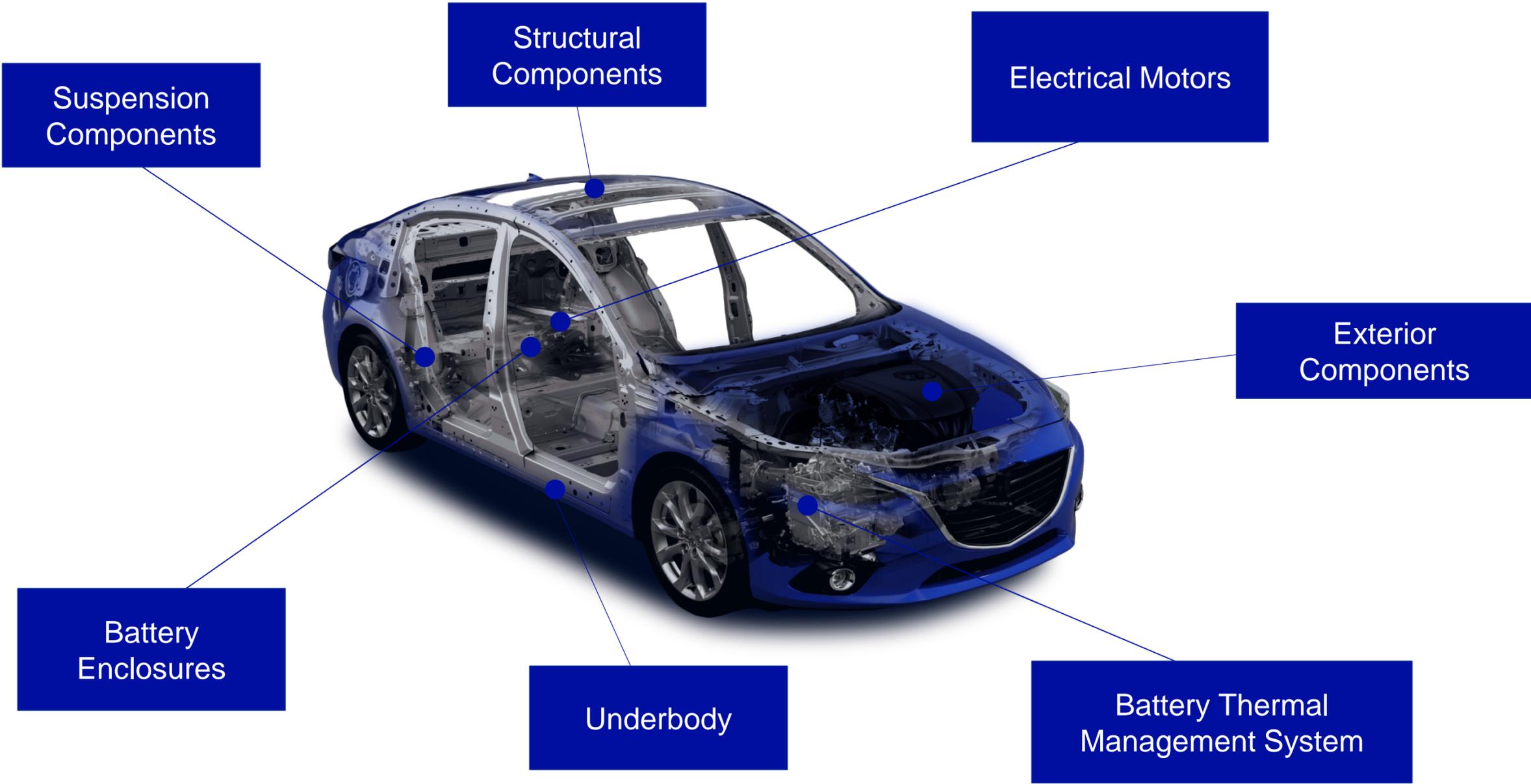
- Amino Resins
- Epoxy Resins
- Phenolic Resins
- Polyols
- Versatic™ Acids & Derivatives

# Sustainability Mindset

- UL 880 Certified (Standard for Sustainability for Manufacturing Organizations)
- Founding member of American Chemistry Council Responsible Care® Program
- EPA and REACH compliance for all products
- Product Risk Prioritization Handling Strategy
- <https://www.hexion.com/en-US/company/responsibility/sustainability/>



# Hexion thermoset solutions for EV Applications



# **EV Battery Enclosures Requirements and Current Trends**

# Innovative fire retardant material solutions are needed

Battery enclosures ensure passenger safety



Internal: “Thermal Runaway”

GB 38031-2020

External: “Bonfire”

GB/T 31467.3 & ECE R100



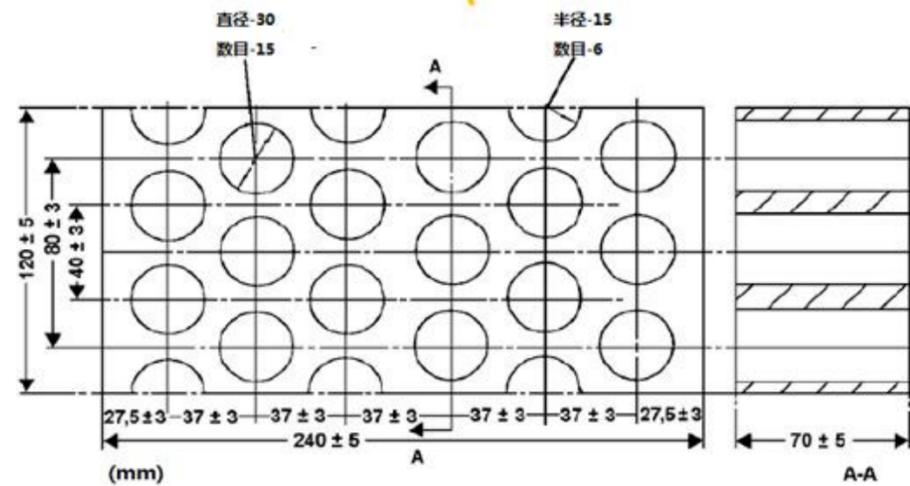
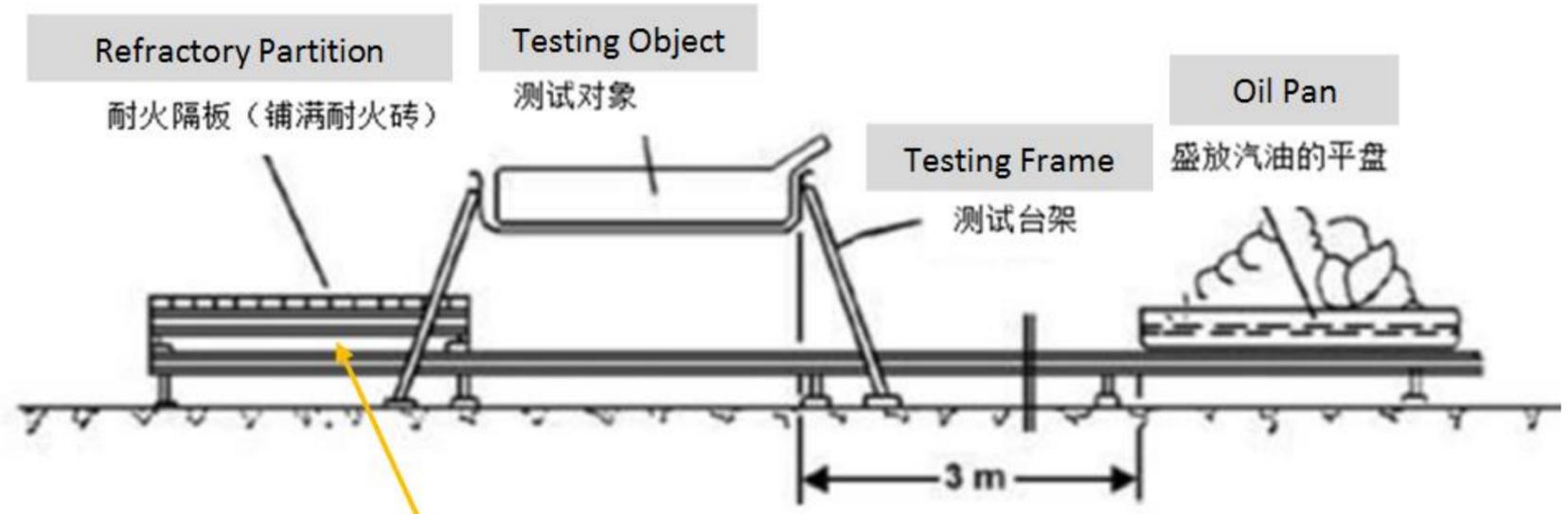
# Battery Enclosure Fire Safety Requirements 2021 and Beyond

Regulatory Trends Becoming More Demanding (2019-2020)

			
FST Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BEV/PHEV mandatory</li> <li>• Clear push to high-end offering (drive range and battery technology)</li> <li>• <b>Toughest FST requirements on complete enclosure starting January 2021</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EU OEMs, have a strong stake in China</li> <li>• CO2 emission targets getting more stringent than expected spur shift to NEV</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ford/GM have important stake in China need to meet FST requirements</li> </ul>
FST Not Required		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional FST requirements are focused on battery cover; tend to lag CN by 1-2 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tesla expanding production in CN</li> <li>• EV implementation less fast or extensive</li> <li>• Regional FST requirements are limited</li> <li>• OEMs starting shift toward FST evaluation</li> </ul>

# GB/T 31467.3 & GB 38031 Test Overview

	Item	Requirement
GB/T 31467.3 External Fire	Battery unit	70 seconds direct
	Battery cover	60 seconds direct or indirect
	Petrol level to test object	50 cm
	Criteria	No explosion or fire Self-extinguishing
GB 38031 Internal Fire/Smoke	Fire spread rate	Time from alarm signal to fire spread beyond enclosure should be <u>&gt; 5 minutes</u>
	Smoke diffusion rate	Time from alarm signal to smoke spread into passenger compartment should be > 5 minutes



Fire Resistance : SK 30 ;  
 Component : 30-33% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> ;  
 Density : 1900-2000kg/m<sup>3</sup> ;  
 Effective hole area : 44.18% ;  
 Aperture Ratio : 20-22% by volume ;

# Key Requirements for EV Battery Enclosures



Source: Nissan Leaf

- **Fire resistant**
- Package protection
  - Knee loads
  - Impact, 15 g impulse
  - Survive 30° offset barrier
  - Puncture-proof
  - Impermeable to 1m water, dust
- Corrosion resistant
- Lightweight
- Easy to assemble and service
- Non-conductive
- Provide thermal regulation
- Electromagnetic Interference / Electromagnetic Compatibility

# Battery Cover Examples

- Semi-structural part
- Seals and protects battery from fire, water, etc.
- Provides fire protection towards the passenger in case of run-away event (dependent on regional regulation)



Passenger sits – literally – on top of the battery cover  
Importance of Fire protection is evident



Example of a 3D cover / deep draw

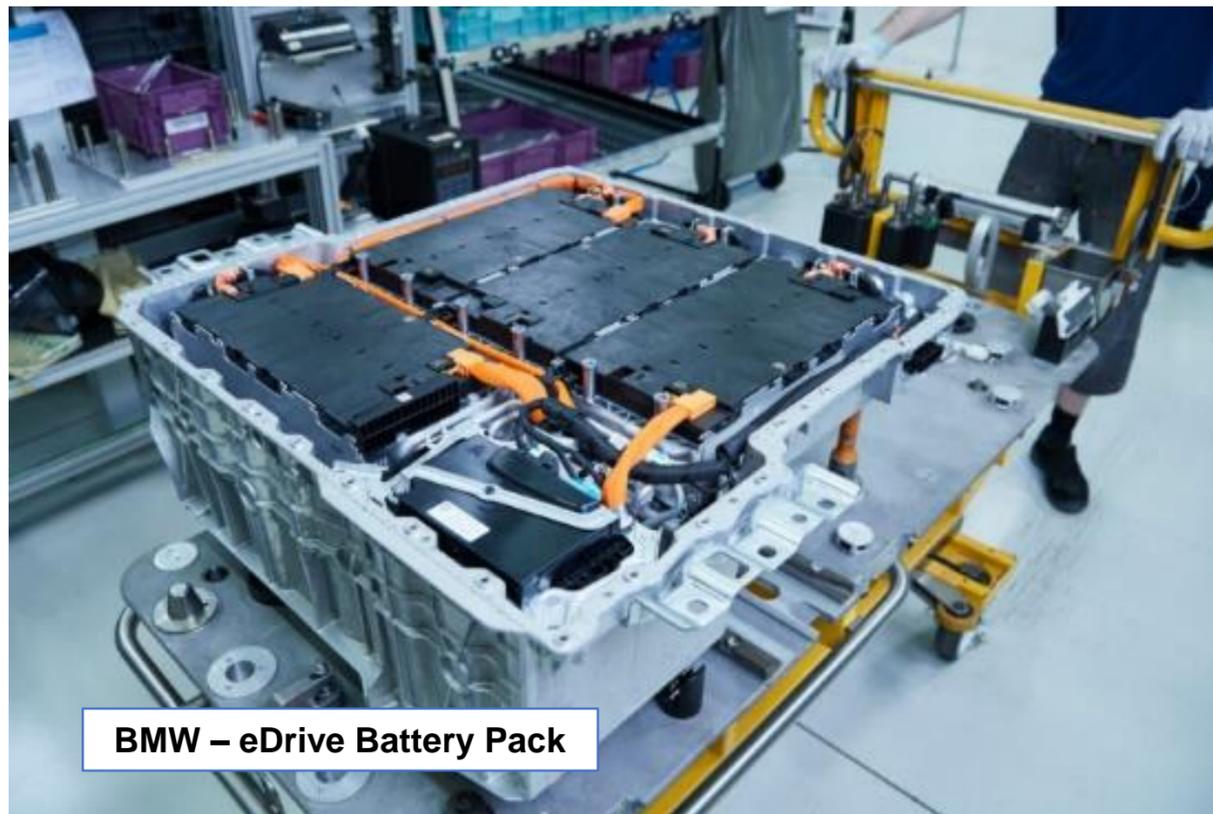


BMW – eDrive Battery Pack

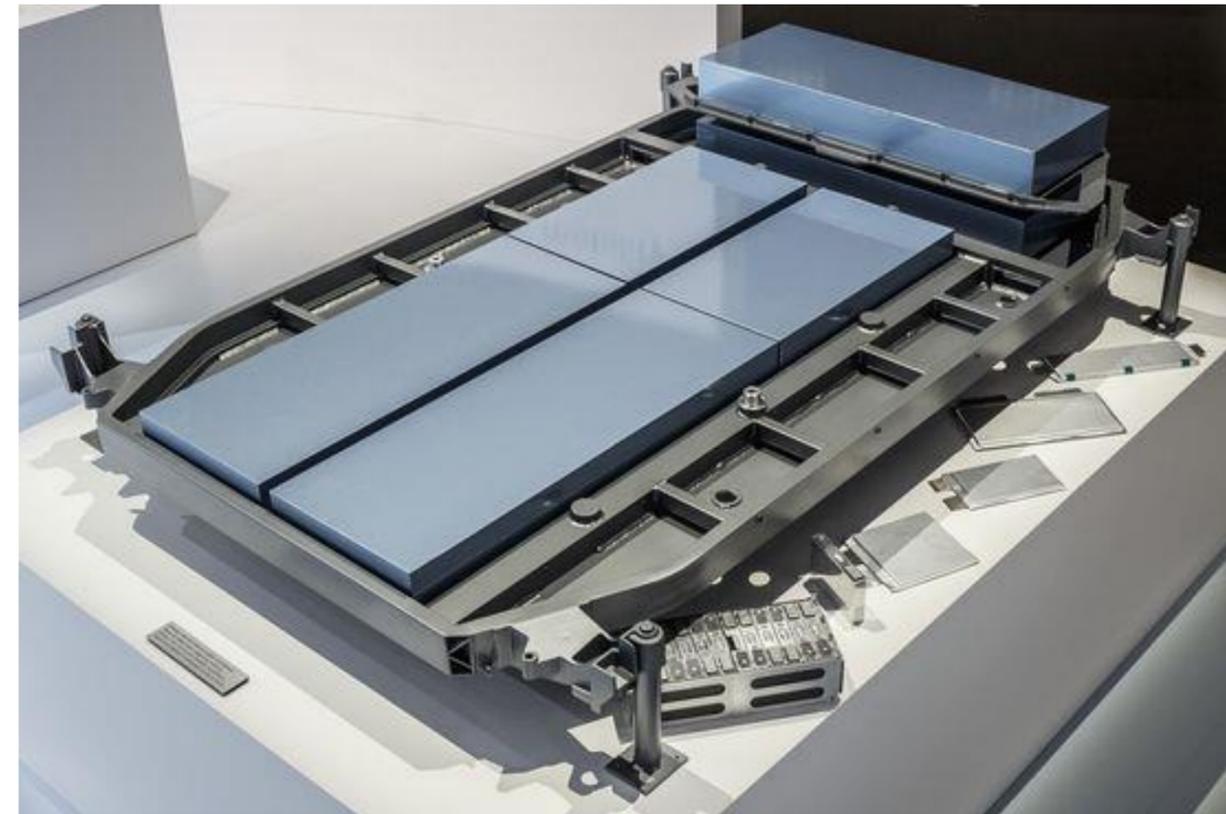
Example of a 2D cover / shallow draw

# Battery Tray Examples

- Structural part, optionally part of BIW.
- Carries the (heavy) weight battery
- Protects the battery against intrusion risk during crash or other adverse situations.
- Also requires FST protection



Example of 3D Cast aluminum tray and cooling system



Daimler's dedicated architecture for EV

# **Fire Resistant Material System for EV Battery Enclosures**

# Two primary material and process formats for thermoset composite EV battery enclosure components ...

## 1 - **SMC**

### Sheet Molding Compound

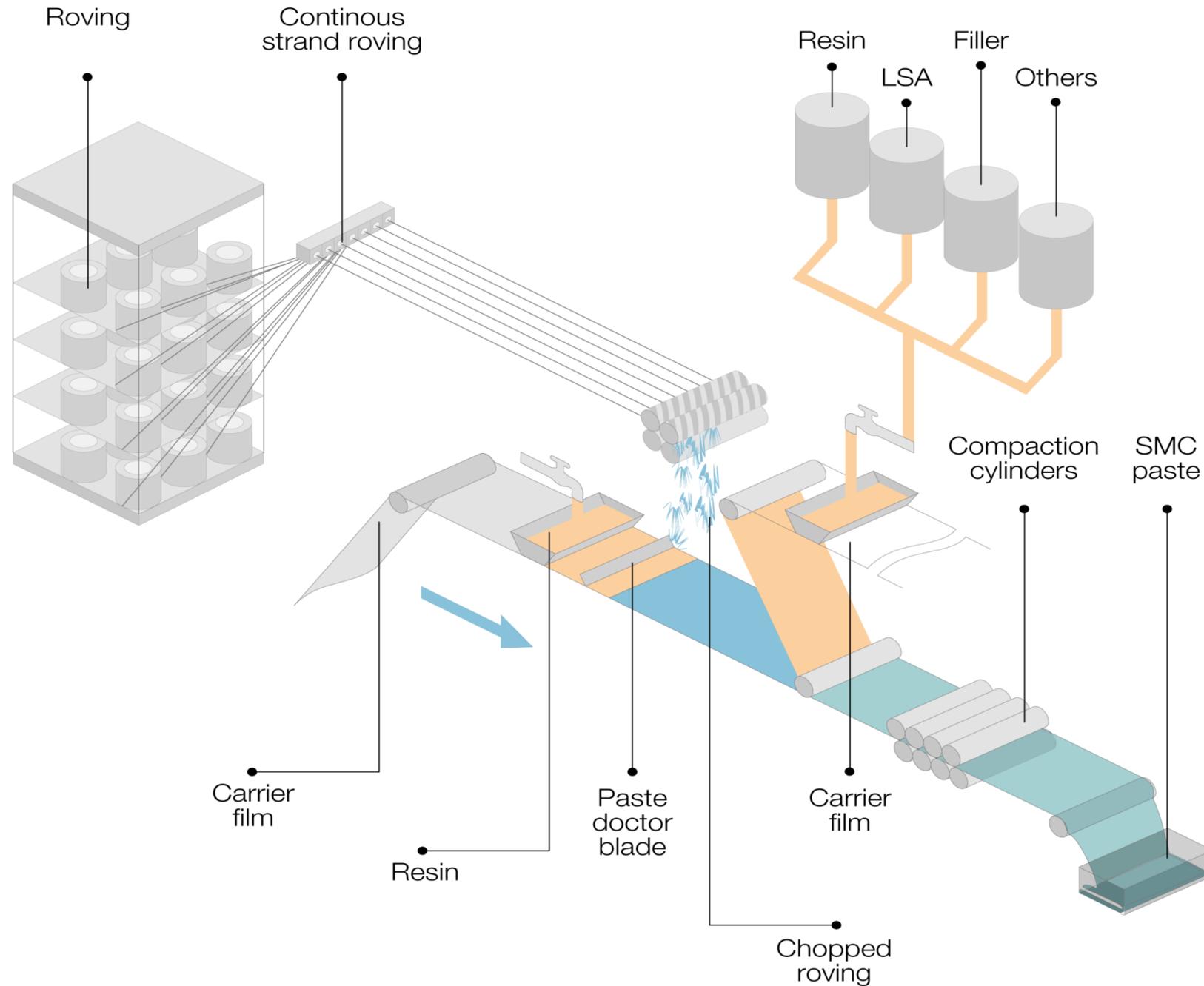
- Chopped fiber format
- Excellent moldability for complex shapes
- Lower mechanical properties
- Can incorporate continuous fiber reinforcements

## 2 - **RTM / LCM**

### Resin Transfer Molding / Liquid Compression Molding

- Continuous fiber format
- Excellent mechanical properties
- RTM capable of molding complex geometries - preforming required
- LCM compatible for simple geometries - no preforming required

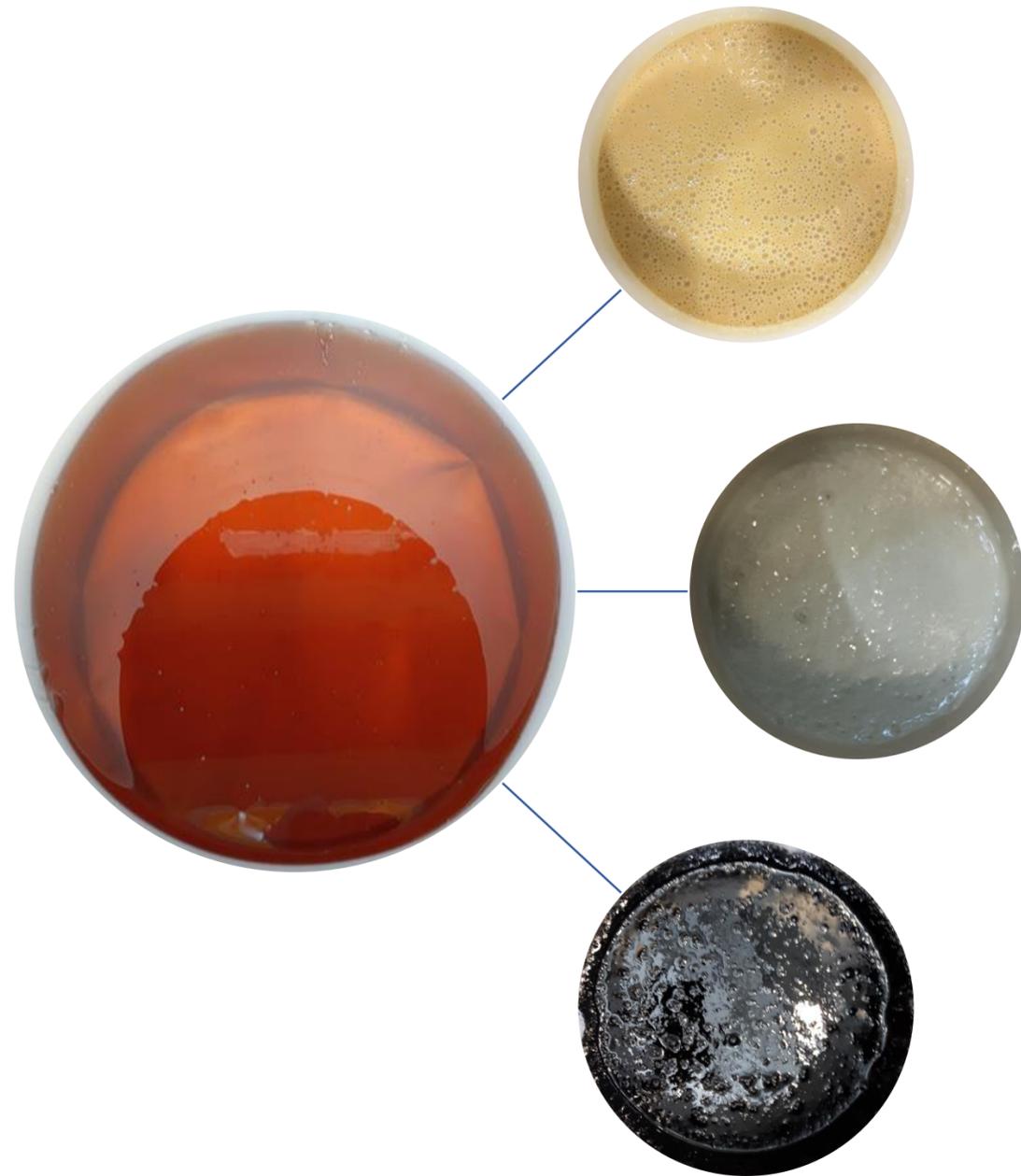
# SMC: A Versatile and Cost-Efficient Process Format



- Offers significant design freedom
- Very good mechanical properties
- Flexible resin chemistries and fiber types
- Low scrap rate compared to other formats
- Established global supply chains
- Large and scalable industrial capacity



# Hexion's New EPONOL™ TRAC 06921 SMC Resin System



- No FR additives: inherently resistant
- No styrene, ultra-low formaldehyde
- Globally available
- Processes on standard SMC equipment
- Pass automotive FST test requirements
- Excellent mechanical properties
- 2 – 3 minute total cure time

*All materials are REACH compliant; composite meets EU directives for recyclability.*

# Hexion Eponol™ Resin TRAC 06921 System: A Unique Value Proposition for EV Battery Enclosures

- Lower density vs. aluminum
- Lower replacement tooling expense (vs. cast aluminum)
- Greater design flexibility
  - Package-constrained HEV designs
  - Integrated cooling concepts
  - One-piece designs prevent dust/water intrusion
- Inherent electrical and thermal insulation properties
- Corrosion resistant



**Eponol™ Resin TRAC 06921  
Black Pigmented System**

# Battery Box “Bonfire Test” Using EPONOL™ TRAC 06921 SMC

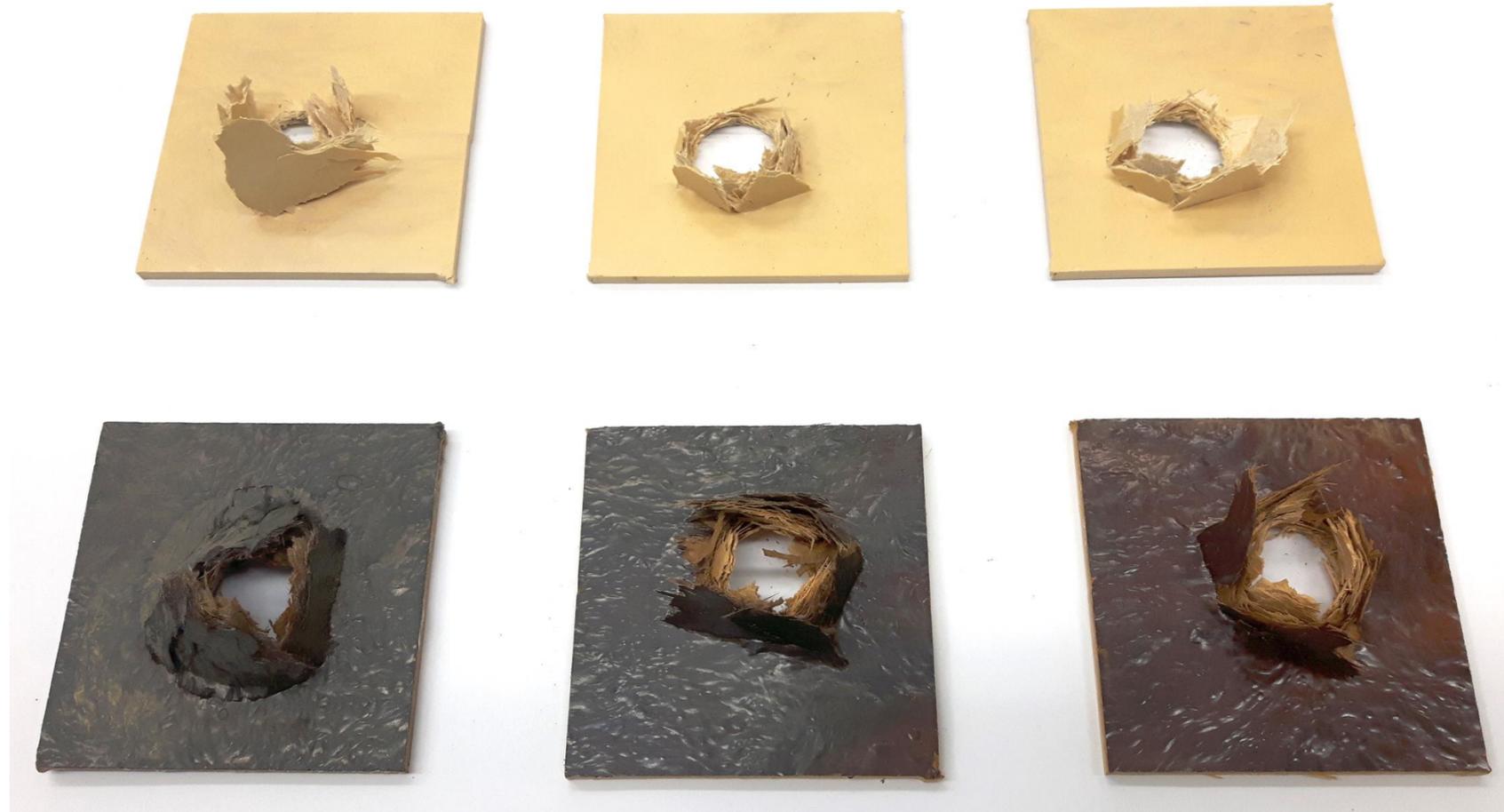
GB/T 31467.3 Test Protocol



[https://youtu.be/3eQcWGnJk\\_g](https://youtu.be/3eQcWGnJk_g)



# Excellent Property Retention Even After a Fire Event ...



*EPONOL 06921 SMC retains  
>65% of its strength and  
impact resistance even after  
full fire exposure.*

Tested according to DIN EN ISO 6603-2

# Thermal Runaway using EPONOL™ TRAC 06921 SMC

GB 38031 Test Protocol



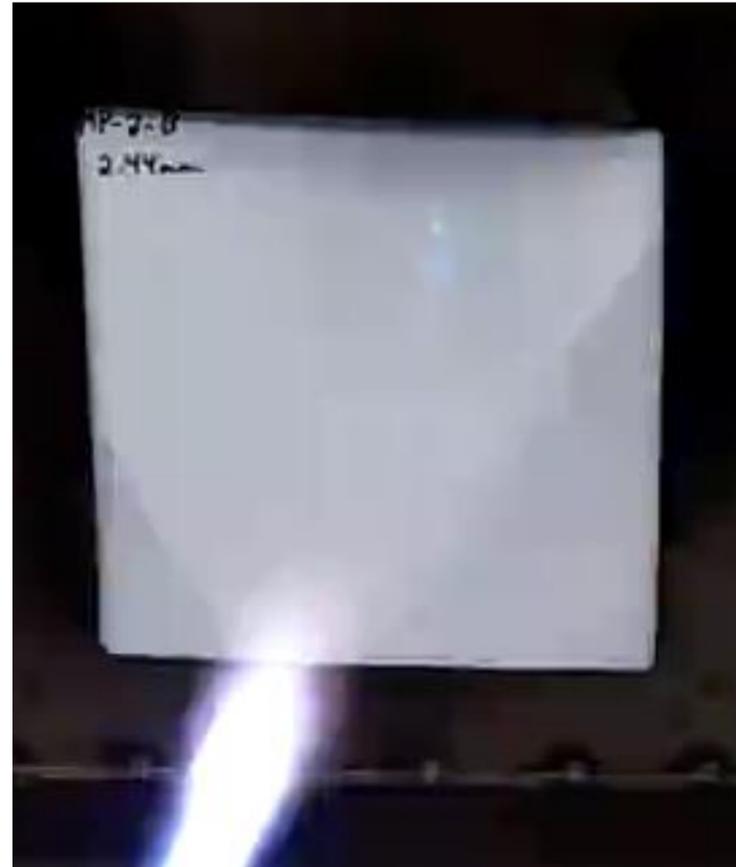
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t7rM2MLsVN8>



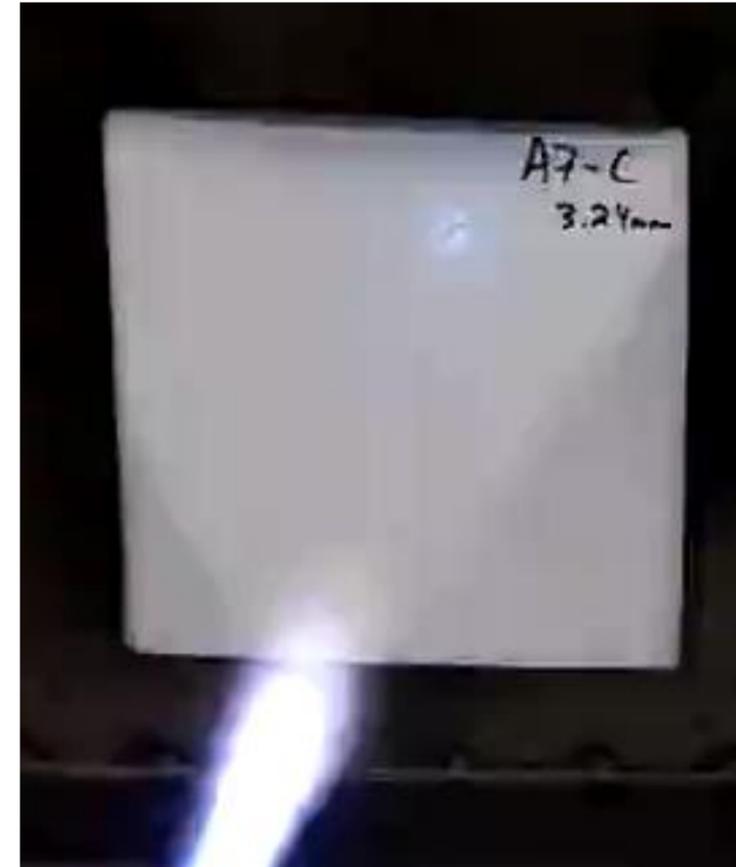
# Protocol B: combined thermal / mechanical load



Phenolic SMC  
3.08 mm  
1.78 g/cm<sup>3</sup>  
# cycles: 6



50% ATH SMC  
2.94 mm  
1.89 g/cm<sup>3</sup>  
# cycles: 2



60% ATH SMC  
3.24 mm  
1.94 g/cm<sup>3</sup>  
# cycles: 3



6016-T6  
1.5 mm  
2.71 g/cm<sup>3</sup>  
# cycles: 1

# Best-in-class Mechanical Performance

	PF SMC	PF UD [0]	PF UD [90]	Comm. #1 (50% ATH)	Comm. #2 (60% ATH)	AA365
Type	Phenolic	Phenolic	Phenolic	Polyester	PE / VE blend	Aluminum
Glass content (%wt)	60	70	70	20	20	--
Density (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	1.78	1.90	1.90	1.89	1.95	2.71
Tensile Strength (MPa)	262	474	34	48	55	185
Tensile Modulus (GPa)	17	47	3	7	6	75
Flexure Strength (MPa)	459	820	107	116	129	359
Flexure Modulus (GPa)	21	33.8	7	7	9	50
Notched Charpy (kJ/m <sup>2</sup> )	154			48	101	142



Expect ~30% weight saving over traditional materials

# Two primary material and process formats for thermoset composite EV battery enclosure components ...

## 1 - **SMC**

### Sheet Molding Compound

- Chopped fiber format
- Excellent moldability for complex shapes
- Lower mechanical properties
- Can incorporate continuous fiber reinforcements

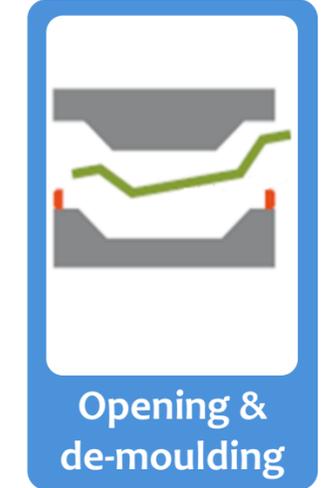
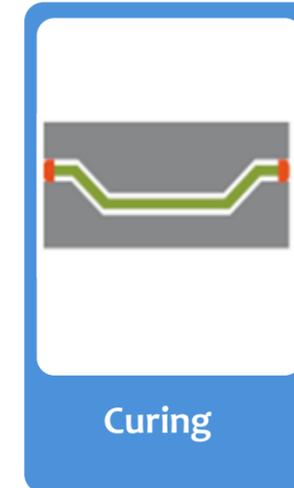
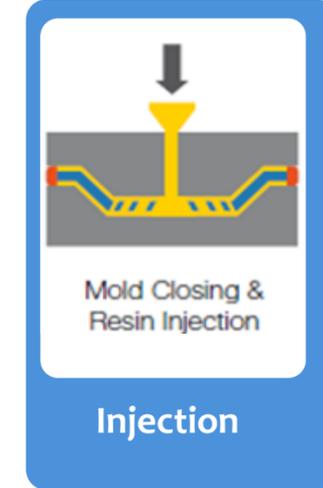
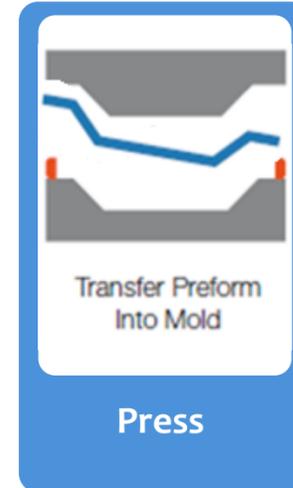
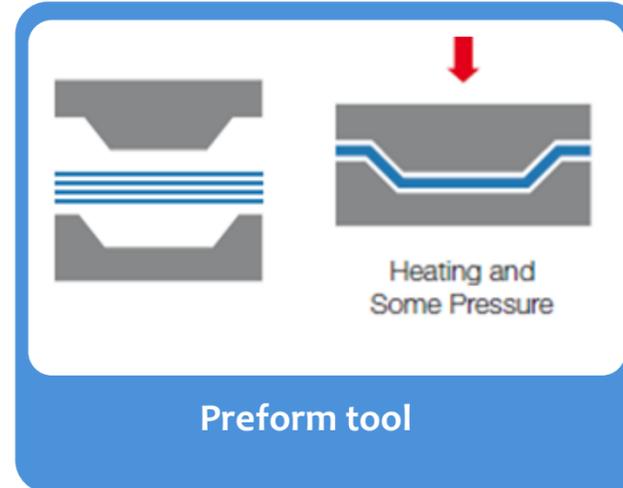
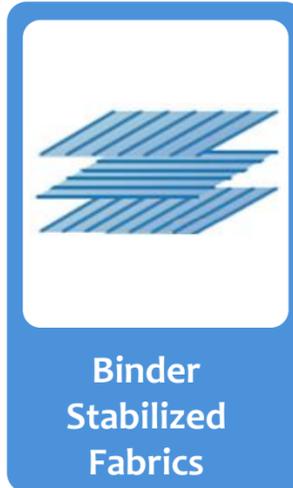
## 2 - **RTM / LCM**

### Resin Transfer Molding / Liquid Compression Molding

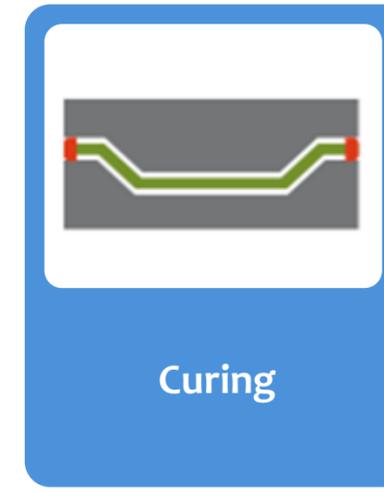
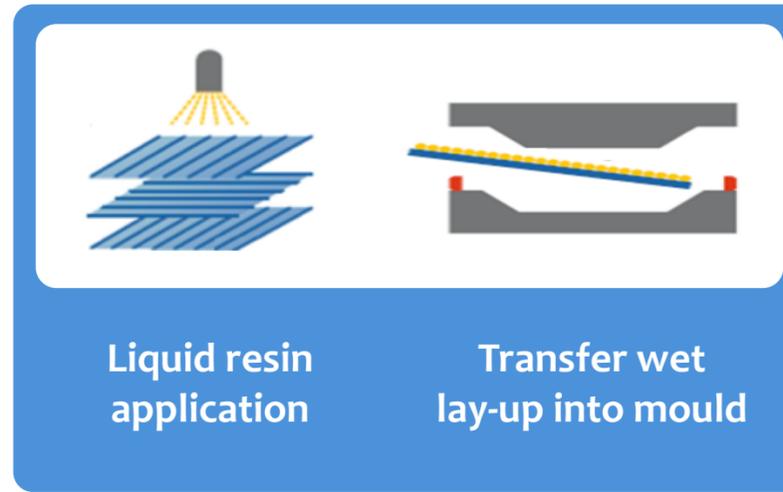
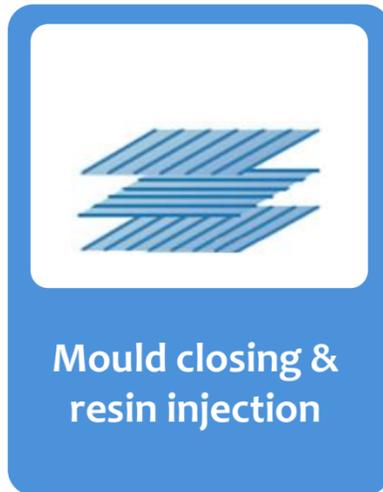
- Continuous fiber format
- Excellent mechanical properties
- RTM capable of molding complex geometries - preforming required
- LCM compatible for simple geometries - no preforming required

# One manufacturing cell - two manufacturing processes ...

## HP-RTM Two-stage Process: *Preforming and Molding*

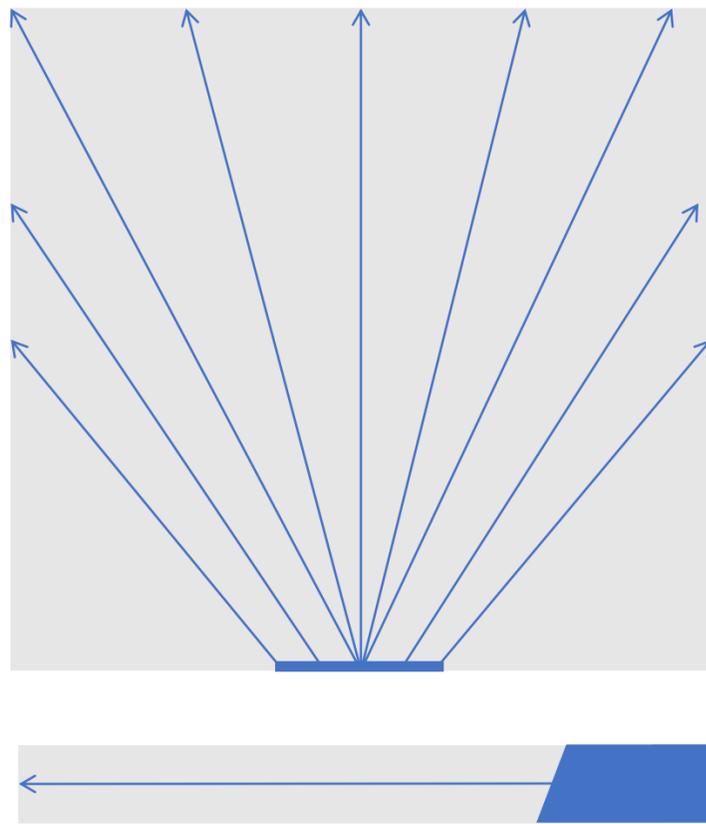


## LCM One-stage Process: *Molding*



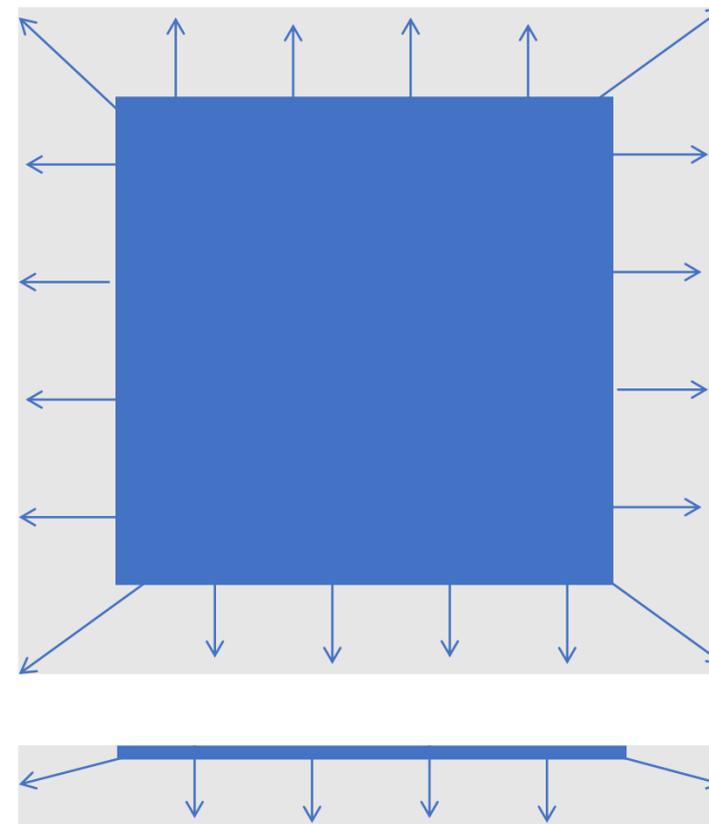
# One manufacturing cell – two manufacturing processes ...

HP-RTM

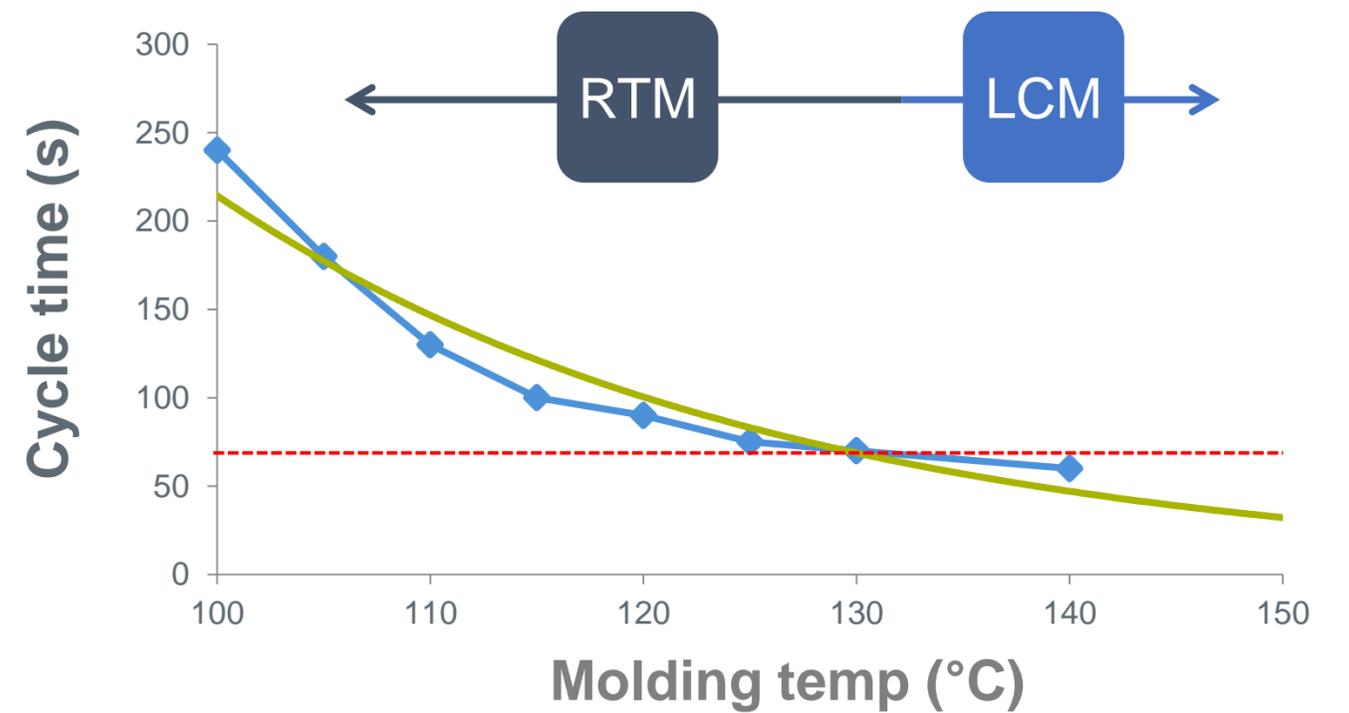


Resin Flow/Fiber Impregnation  
(during Injection)

LCM



Resin Flow/Fiber Impregnation  
(during Mold Closure)

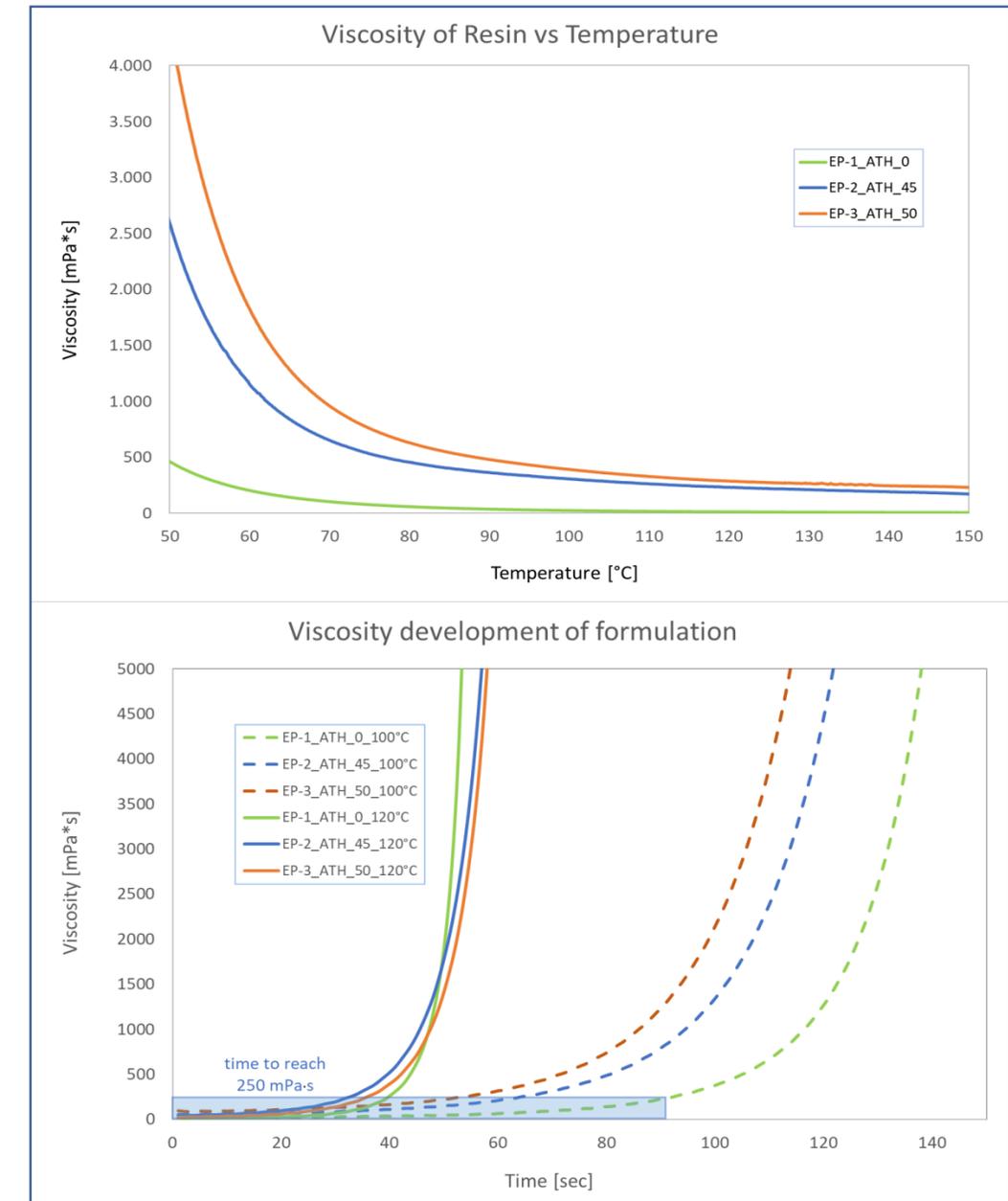


Cycle time < 60s for Hexion's EPIKOTE™  
Resin/EPIKURE™ Curing Agent TRAC 06170

# EPIKOTE/EPIKURE TRAC 06170 ATH or liquid FR additive

## RTM/LCM Epoxy for EV Battery Enclosure

- ATH-filled system compatible with LCM
- Liquid FR Filled system for LCM and RTM process
- Tailored additive loading to match specific FR requirements of application
- 2 – 3 minute cure time
- Excellent mechanical performance – flexural, tensile, compression, fracture toughness
- Minimal impact on  $T_g$  performance



# Application Areas

## Underbody:

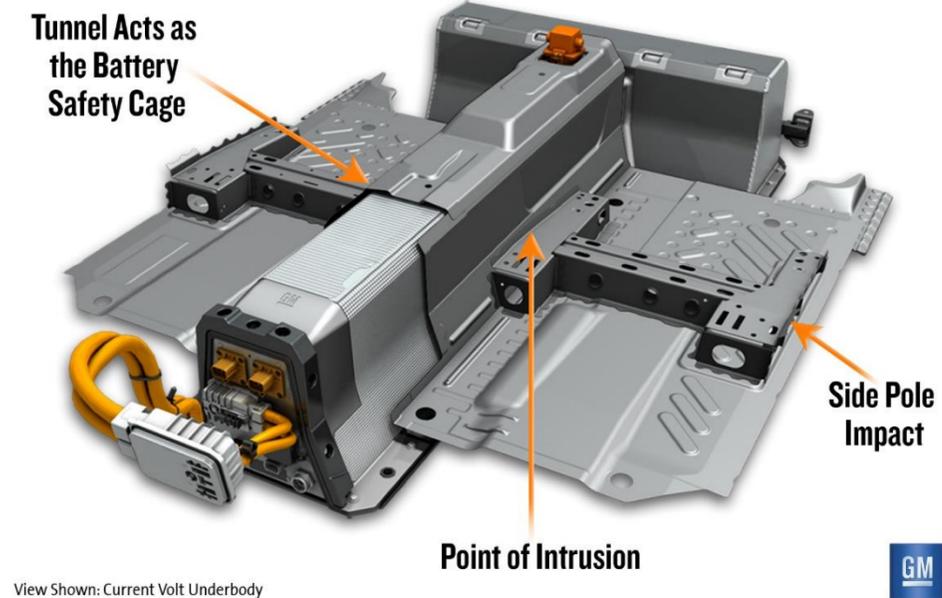
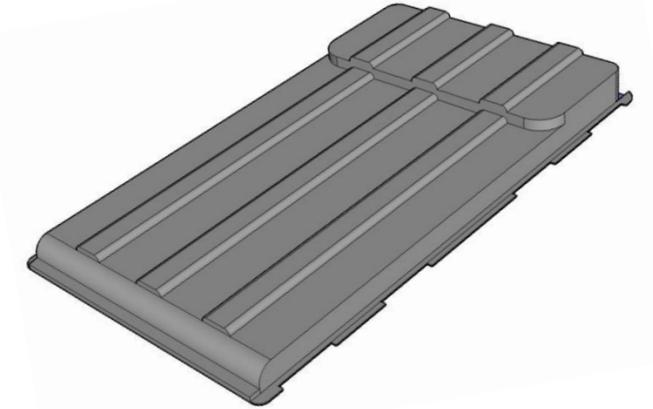
- Skid Plates
- Aerodynamic Closures
- Battery box protection (EV)
  - **Fabrics:** Glass Fiber, Carbon Fiber, Hybrid
  - **Resin:** Epoxy



Source: Nissan

## EV Battery Enclosure:

- Cover (primarily SMC based)
- Tray (RTM/LCM)
- Materials:
  - **Fabrics:** Glass Fiber, Carbon Fiber, Hybrid
  - **Resin:** Epoxy, Phenolic



View Shown: Current Volt Underbody



Volt Composite Battery Cover: Continental Structural Plastics

# Underbody Application

OEM/Molder	Daimler / Multimatic
Vehicle	AMG GT-R (EU)
Application	Midsection/driveshaft underbody aerodynamic/torsional reinforcement panel
Materials	High $T_g$ EP resin, Tailored Fiber Placement CF laminate - 7mm thickness
Manufacturing Process	Liquid Compression Molding

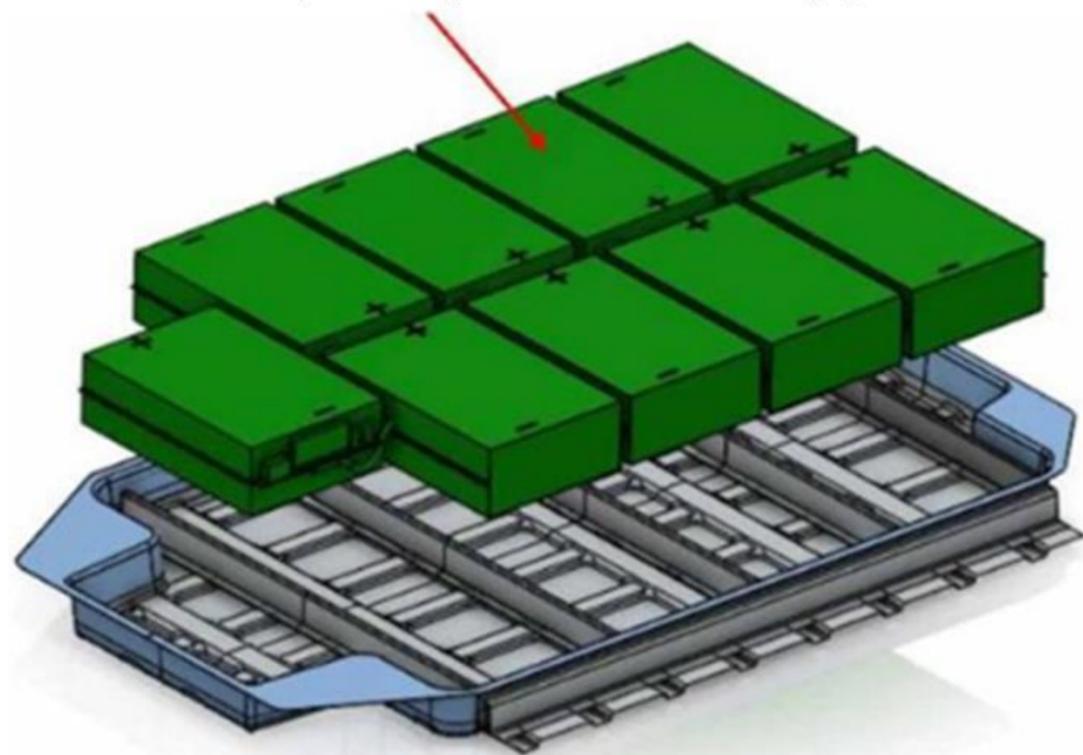
- Multimatic currently produces an LCM CFRP underbody torsional reinforcement panel approximately 1.2m x .5m x 7mm thickness – being supplied to Daimler for the AMG GT platform.
- Production rates fluctuate between 100-400 parts per month
- The CF fabric preform comes in the form of a tailored fabric placement ‘blank’ made from continuous roving. The part utilizes a high  $T_g$  epoxy resin and is LCM molded



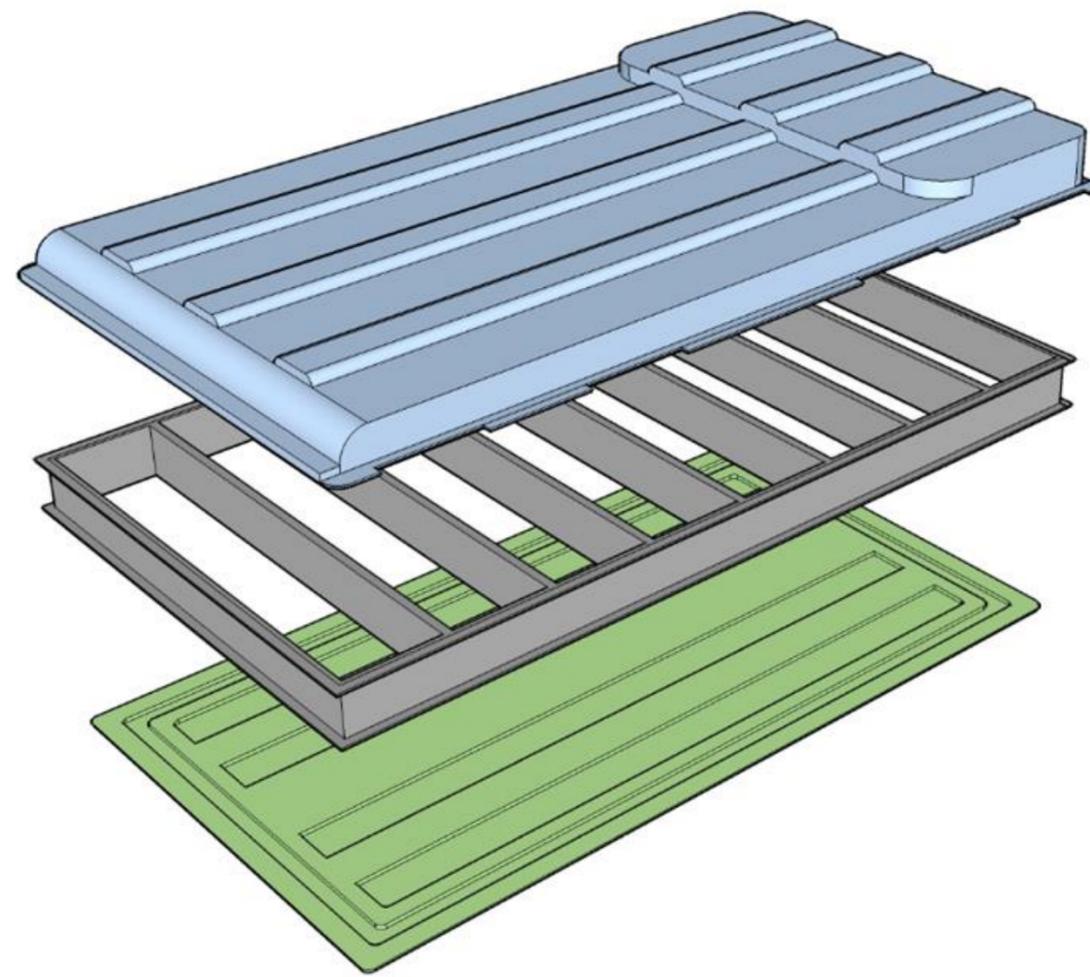
# Design and Integration of Composites

# Lightweight Fire Resistant Battery Box Concept

Original Metal Concept  
(~20 pc Assembly)



Multi-Material Composite  
Concept (simplified)



- ← Phenolic SMC Cover
- ← Aluminum/Composite Extrusion Frame Structure
- ← Continuous Fiber LCM/RTM Structural Tray

# Composite Materials for EV Battery Box Enclosures

## RTM/LCM

- Continuous fiber format
- Excellent mechanical properties
- LCM compatible for simple geometries/no preforming required



**Most suitable for Battery Trays**

## SMC

- Chopped fiber format
- Lower mechanical properties
- Excellent moldability/complex shapes
- Can incorporate continuous fiber reinforcements



**Most suitable for Battery Covers**

# Key takeaways

## **Phenolic resin technology:**

Withstands even the toughest automotive FST requirements

## **Best-in-class material performance:**

FR Epoxy and phenolic systems for optimized design and performance

## **Hexion Expertise:**

Globally positioned; full-scale technical partner

**Dr. Ian Swentek**  
Senior Application Development Engineer  
[Ian.Swentek@Hexion.com](mailto:Ian.Swentek@Hexion.com)



# Thank You!

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