



NEWS RELEASE

Pressure tanks for fuel cell vehicles

BMVI funds "Delfin" research project with IKV participation

Berlin, December 2018 – On 13 December, Steffen Bilger, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (BMVI), handed over the notification of funding approval amounting to around 7.5 million euros to the partners of the "Delfin" fuel cell project. The Institute of Plastics Processing (IKV) in Industry and the Skilled Crafts at RWTH Aachen University is participating in this project with, among other things, its research into an in-line monitoring method for the winding process of pressure tanks.

The Delfin project involves the development of a pressure tank with reduced costs and weight for emissions-free hydrogen mobility. The high costs of pressure tanks for hydrogen storage represent a major barrier to establishing such systems on the market.

The project is funded within the scope of the National Innovation Programme Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technology (NIP). For the NIP, the Federal Ministry for Transport and Digital Infrastructure (BMVI) will provide, in the period from 2016 to 2019, 250 million euros alone for research and development and the procurement of vehicles.

"This project is a milestone on the path to fuel cell vehicles that will provide customers with the long range they are accustomed to at a marketable price. We must continue to work consistently on creating the technological and production conditions for the commercial introduction of fuel cell vehicles in Germany and Europe in order to make the switch to alternative fuels successful on a large scale," said Bilger during the ceremonial handover of the notification of funding approval.

The partners in the project, Ford, BMW and NuCellSys, as well as the suppliers, NPROXX Jülich, Elkamet, Tejin Carbon, engineering service provider ISATEC and, on the public side, the Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing (BAM) and IKV – have joined forces to develop and test innovative design and manufacturing concepts as well as new materials. The composition of the consortium represents the entire value chain of the pressure tank – from the manufacture of the individual components and their assembly to their suitability for use in fuel cell-powered vehicles. The research institutes participating in the project support the various stages of the value chain with their understanding of materials, process know-how and experience in testing.

(Source: BMVI)

www.ikv-aachen.de

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About IKV

IKV - the Institute for Plastics Processing at RWTH Aachen University, is Europe-wide the leading research and education institute engaged in the field of plastics processing enjoying outstanding reputation. More than 300 staff are employed in finding solutions to problems connected with processing, materials technology and part design in the plastics and rubber industries. IKV's close contacts with industry and science, together with its outstanding facilities, enable cutting-edge research in plastics technology and ensure that students benefit from a comprehensive, practically oriented course of study. Plastics engineering graduates from IKV are thus sought-after experts in industry. In organisational terms, IKV is divided up into the four specialist departments of Injection Moulding, Extrusion and Rubber Technology, Part Design and Materials Technology, and Composites and Polyurethane Technology. The institute also takes in the Centre for Analysis and Testing of Plastics, and the Training and Further Education department. IKV is run by an Association of Sponsors, which currently has a membership of about 300 plastics companies from all over the world. Univ.-Prof. Dr.-Ing. Christian Hopmann is Head of the Institute and Managing Director of the Association of Sponsors. He also holds the Chair of Plastics Processing at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering at RWTH Aachen University.

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Nadine Magura, scientific assistant at IKV (centre), at the presentation of the notification of funding approval at the BMVI in Berlin. On her right, Steffen Bilger. On the left of the picture: Daniel Schneider, head of the Composites department at IKV (photo: BMVI)