



INNOVATION IN COMPOSITE MANUFACTURE AWARD

SHORTLISTED: TAPACO Project

The growing demand for quieter, more efficient aircraft has increased the need for advanced noise-reduction solutions using lightweight materials like thermoplastic composites.

These materials are valued for their high strength-to-weight ratio, but traditional drilling methods weaken them by cutting load-bearing fibres, requiring more material and reducing their benefits.

Thermally Assisted Piercing (TAP), a technique that creates perforations without cutting fibres has been developed to TRL3 within the TAPACO project. With further development, it potentially offers a new production technique for the perforation of thermoplastic composite.

This preserves the composite's strength, reduces weight, and eliminates harmful by-products, making TAP ideal for noise-attenuating acoustic liners in aerospace applications.

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