



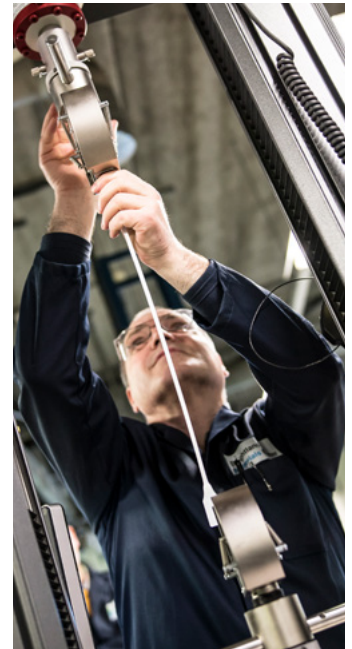
RECYCLING

Lightweight Automotive

Brightlands Materials Center is a Materials Research Organisation based in Geleen, The Netherlands.

The Lightweight Automotive Program focusses on Hybrid Thermoplastic Composites in overmoulding and recycling.

- Environmental problems as climate warming and the plastic soup forces our society to use plastic materials more efficiently, and this reinforces the importance of recycling of materials. Composite materials offer interesting properties, but with regard to recycling, the thermoplastic materials have major advantages, since thermomechanical recycling offers a low cost, high-efficient opportunity.
- The ambition is to recycle Thermoplastic Composites (TPC) into granular material, while maintaining the fiber length as long as possible. Long fiber thermoplastic compounds are a fast-growing material used for parts able to withstand a demanding environment. The long fiber provides not only unrivalled strength and stiffness, also the impact performance of these materials is surprisingly good.
- Recycling TPC involves a number of well-balanced integrated manufacturing processes, starting with sorting and removing of metal parts, size reduction of materials to be recycled, a special compounding process and part and tool development, and an adjusted injection moulding process. Brightlands Materials Center has a well equipped laboratory with compounding lines, injection moulding machines and size reduction machines to elaborate unique recycling opportunities.



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