

Technical Press Release

GKN Aerospace GmbH orders the first industrial standard microwave curing oven for research use in the production of CFRP aerostructures

Vötsch Industrietechnik GmbH will deliver the first industrial standard microwave oven for curing CFRP aircraft structures, which will be installed at GKN Aerospace - Munich. The oven will be used for further research into the microwave curing of structural aircraft parts made from carbon composites. The objective is to cure these high quality products without the need for an autoclave for future aircraft programmes.

The newly developed microwave system 'VHM HEPHAISTOS' is an internationally patented system. For the first time, the advantages of microwave technology have been developed successfully to an industrial standard. The microwave oven, with a working chamber volume of 7000 ltrs and a microwave power of 30 kW, guarantees reduced production costs thanks to shorter heating, process and cooling times by heating only the product and not the associated tooling. The furnace chamber itself is also not heated and does not have to be cooled down.

The microwave oven is produced by Vötsch Industrietechnik in Reiskirchen, Germany. It has been developed by partners Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe, the Institut für Flugzeugbau (IFB) at the University of Stuttgart and the Composites Research Center at EADS in Munich. In addition to the microwave system, Vötsch Industrietechnik produces units and systems for thermal treatment and drying processes for production facilities.

Information to **GKN Aerospace**:

GKN Aerospace is the aerospace operation of GKN plc (LSE:GKN), one of the world's largest engineering companies. GKN Aerospace serves a global customer base with some 7500 personnel operating in North and South America, Australia, the Asia Pacific and Europe and offering 24 hour 'follow the sun' engineering. With sales of £1bn (\$2bn), the business is focused around three major product areas - aerostructures, propulsion systems and transparencies, plus a number of specialist product areas - electro-thermal ice protection, fuel and flotation systems, and bullet resistant glass. The business is equally split along military and civil lines with participation on all major aircraft programmes today exceeding \$1m per ship set. GKN Aerospace is a major supplier of complex composite structures; offers one of the most comprehensive capabilities in high performance metallics processing and is the world leading supplier of cockpit transparencies and passenger cabin windows.

For further information, please contact: -Sandra Fearon, Public Affairs Manager. Tel: +44 (0)1983 283649
Mobile: +44 (0)7767 334804. Email: sandra.fearon@gknaerospace.com.

Press releases can also be found on the website: www.gknaerospace.com