

# ÉIRECOMPOSITES



## EU Funding: Learnings from an Irish SME

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# Presentation Overview

- **EireComposites**
- **Horizon 2020 SME instrument**
- **Other R&D funding**
- **Key Learnings**



[Company Activities](#)

Manufacturing

Testing

Tooling

Design

Research

# Company Overview

- **Supplier to 3 aircraft programmes – Bombardier Global, Airbus A320 V2500 engine, A400M**
- **Manufacturer of wind turbine blades up to 13m**
- **Leader in composites testing in Europe (CTL)**
- **Collaborative R&D with Bombardier, ESA, ScotRenewables, Suzlon**
- **Patents granted & pending in heated tooling and processes**
- **Started in 1997 to exploit opportunities for composites technology**
- **Academic origins but evolved to meet industrial opportunities**
- **72 staff, including over 20 engineers**



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# Selection of Customers – Testing

## Aerospace



## Wind Power



## Other



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# SEAMETEC

- **Smart Efficient Affordable Marine Energy Technology  
Exploitation using Composites**



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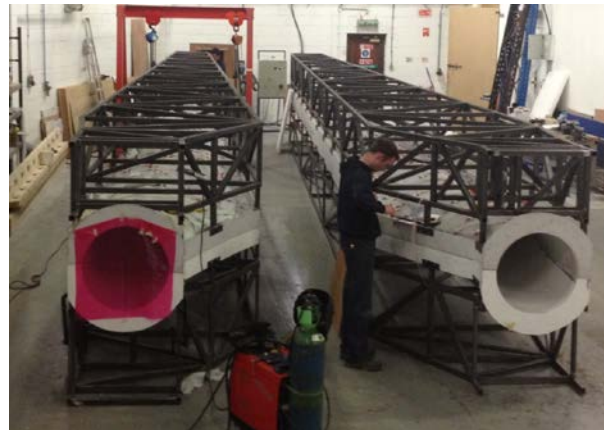
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# Horizon 2020 SME

- SEAMETEC Project – Horizon 2020 SME instrument
- SEAMETEC is an excellent opportunity to develop tidal turbine blades using European funding
- Tidal blades and wind turbine spars
- Sensors on/in blades
- MarinComp Project looking at carbon fibre spars in offshore wind energy



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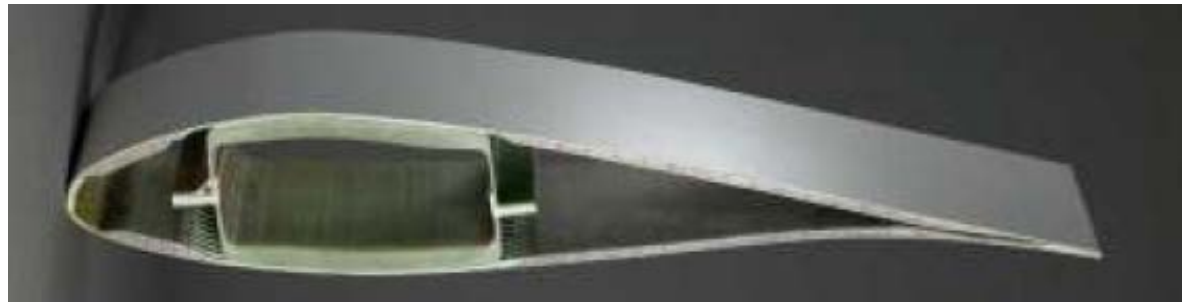
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# SME Instrument

- **Advantages**
  - **Faster assessment. Submitted in June. Money in October**
  - **Aimed at high TRL (Commercialisation of R&D)**
  - **Aimed at SMEs (Not SME as a small player in a large consortium)**
  - **Less bureaucratic (But still room for improvement)**
- **Limitations**
  - **Very new – few examples to copy**
  - **Still quite rigid in terms of submission timelines\changes etc**
  - **Only allowed one submission at a time**



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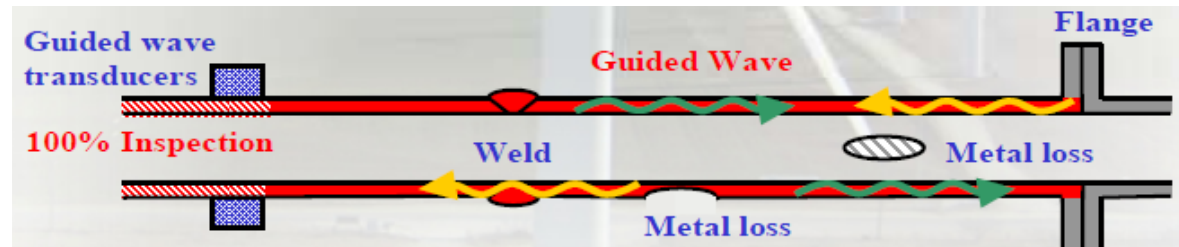
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# Our Approach

- Discuss potential projects internally and select best
- Find a suitable partner
- Contact NCP for guidance
- Study the ECAS website guidelines
- Write proposal
  - Focus on impact
  - Demonstrate excellence
  - Make proposal easy to skim-read
- Review proposal against assessment guidance



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# Key Learnings

- Listen to your NCPs – and ask them questions
- Pick the right research projects
  - High TRL, high impact, strong business case
- Pick the right stream for your proposal
- Consider going straight for Phase 2
- Think hard about finding a partner or going it alone
  - Use international partners
- Plan Phase 1 submission date back from Phase 2 deadlines
  - Not just 6 months as default
- Avoid trying to amend the contract once its signed



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# Other Funded R&D

- **MarinComp Project (Marie Curie FP7)**
  - Carbon fibre in marine energy
- **Future Launchers Preparatory Programme - FLPP 2.1 \ 2.2**
  - Composite structures for Ariane 6
- **EU Framework 7 YBRIDIO Programme**
  - Materials joining
- **Development of Thermal Welding of TPC Aircraft Structures**
  - Collaboration with Bombardier Aerospace (Northern Ireland)
- **Design and development of TPC Helicopter Structures**
  - Collaboration with Eurocopter Deutschland (Germany)
  - Clean Sky Helicopter Door
- **Enterprise Ireland funding**
  - Research and Development Grants



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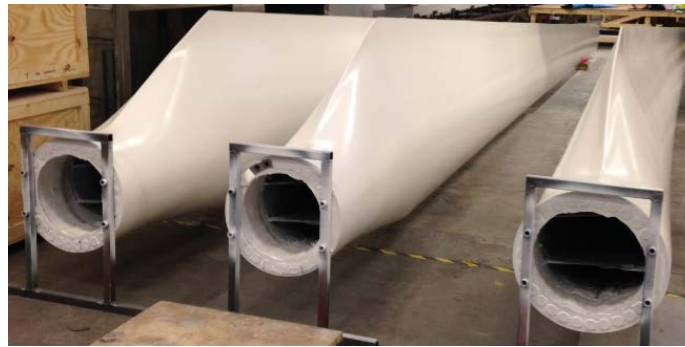
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# General learnings

- No such thing as a free lunch – requires a lot of work
- R&D needs to be linked to company strategy
  - Direct links from R&D (new products and services)
  - Indirect links (competency, reputation, knowledge)
  - Aerospace work from space research indirectly
- Success in R&D breeds further success
- Need to work with “nice” partners
- Success in R&D funding can be a game-changer for an SME



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**Thanks for your time!**

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