

PEI-PEEK Tape Development Journey (OATMEAL)

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What is OATMEAL?

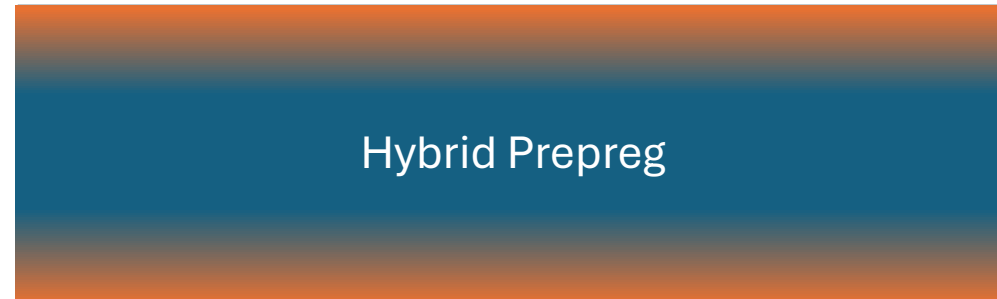
T_g = Glass transition temperature
 T_m = Melt transition temperature
PEI: Polyetherimide
PEEK: Polyetheretherketone

Out-of-autoclave Amorphous/semicrystalline Thermoplastic Material for Energy-efficient Aerospace-grade Laminates.

	T_g (°C)	T_m (°C)	Tensile Modulus (GPa)
PEI	220	--	3.4
PEEK	143	343	3.8

Welding Times

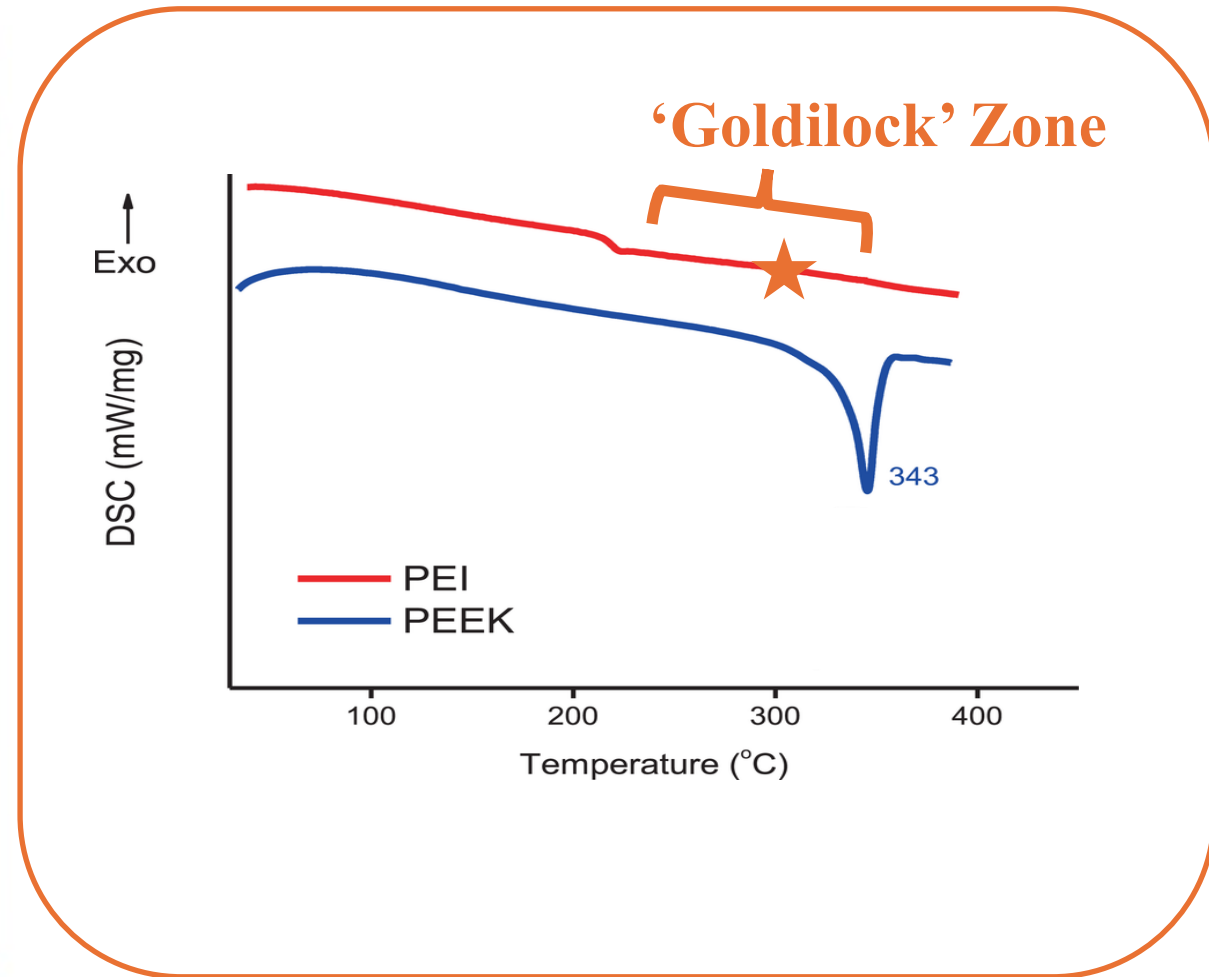
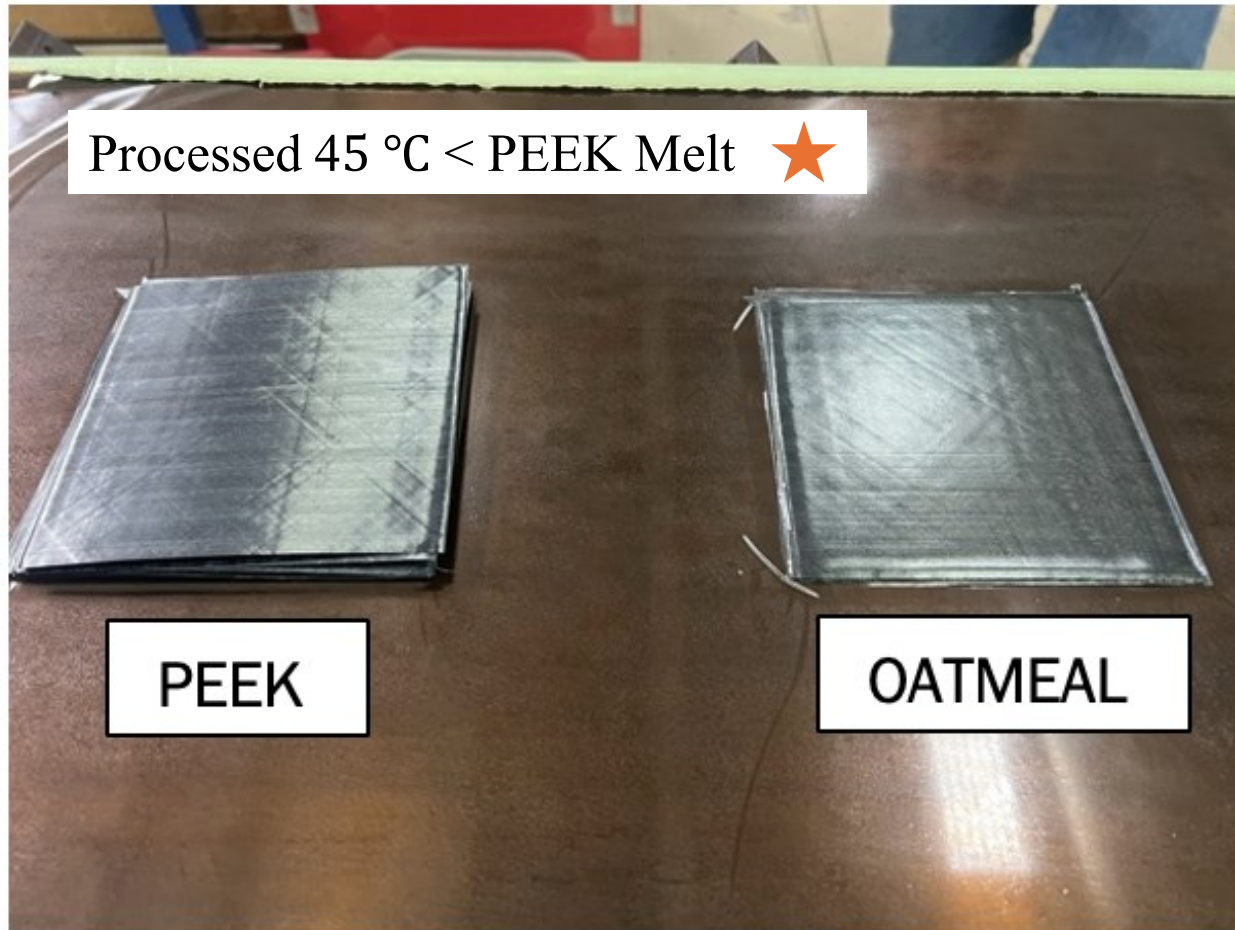
	280 °C (s)	320 °C (s)	340 °C (s)	420 °C (s)
PEI	17,155	< 1	--	--
PEEK	Won't Heal	Won't Heal	592	<1



Remove
excess PEI



OATMEAL is Engineered to be Cooling-rate Agnostic

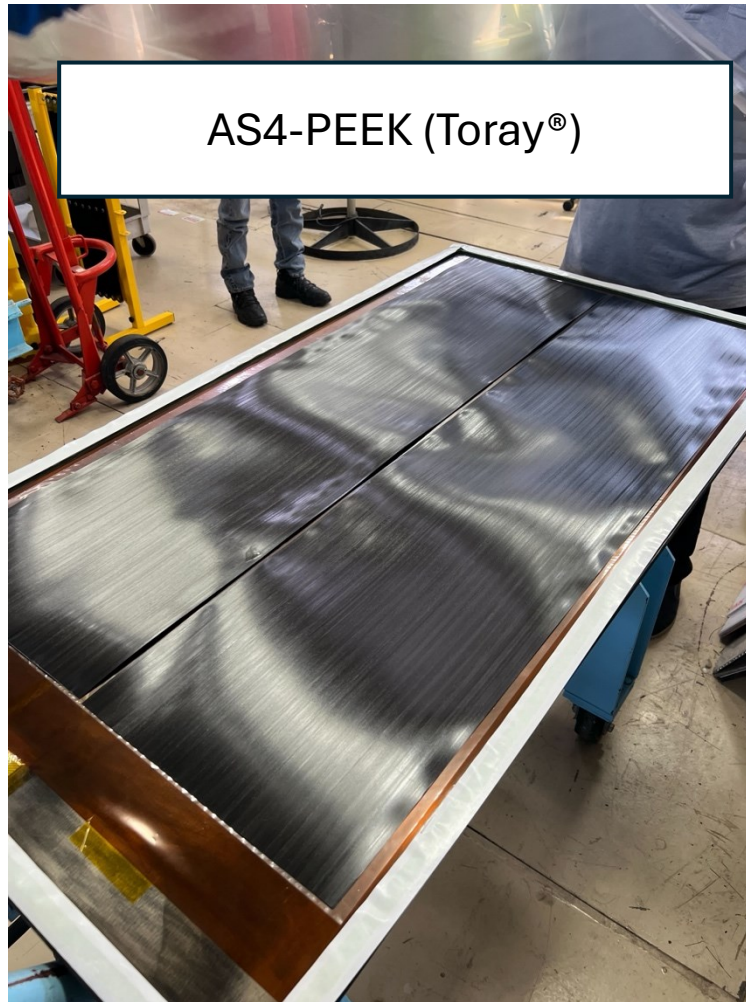


Manufacturing Bulk Amounts of Hybrid Tape

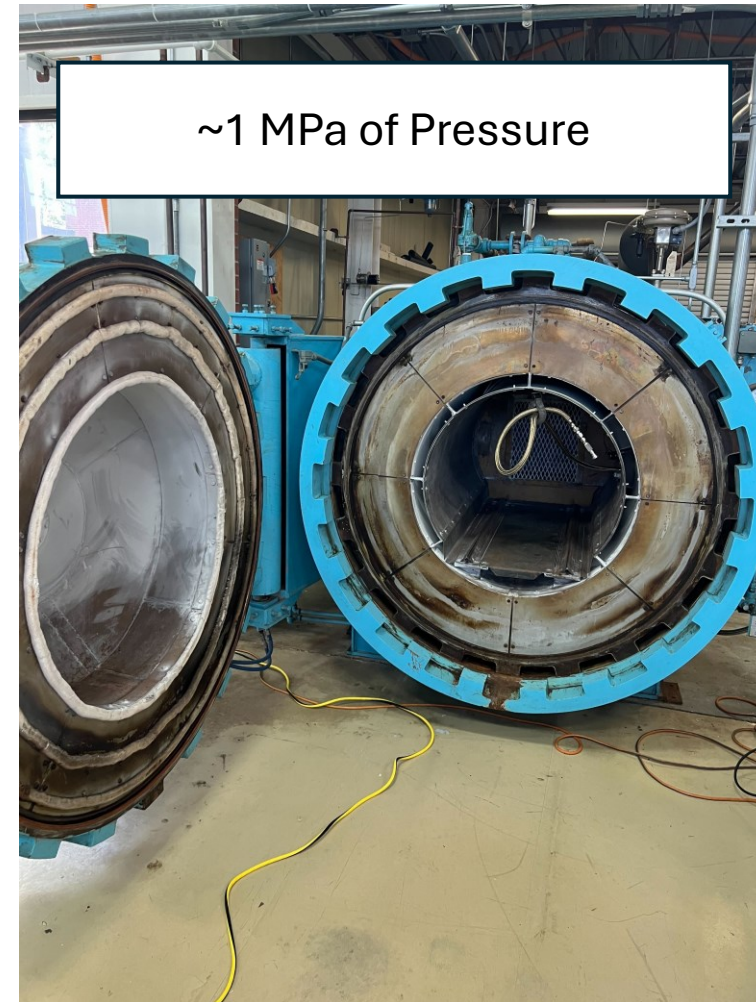
25-Micron PEI (CS Hyde®)



AS4-PEEK (Toray®)

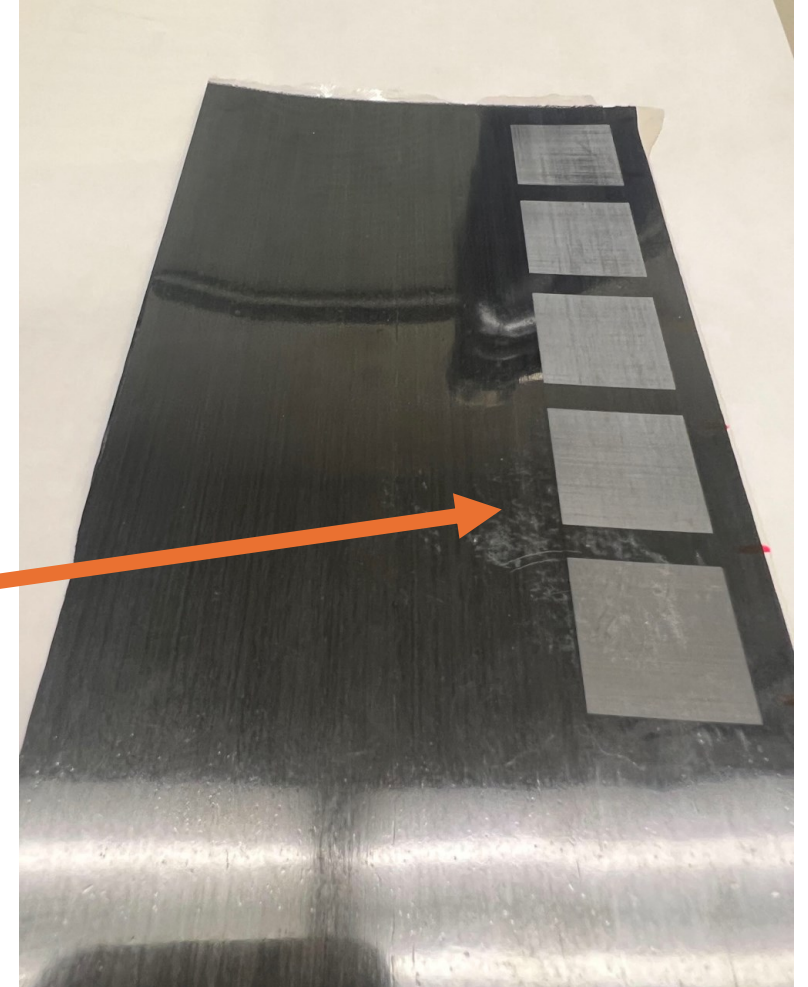
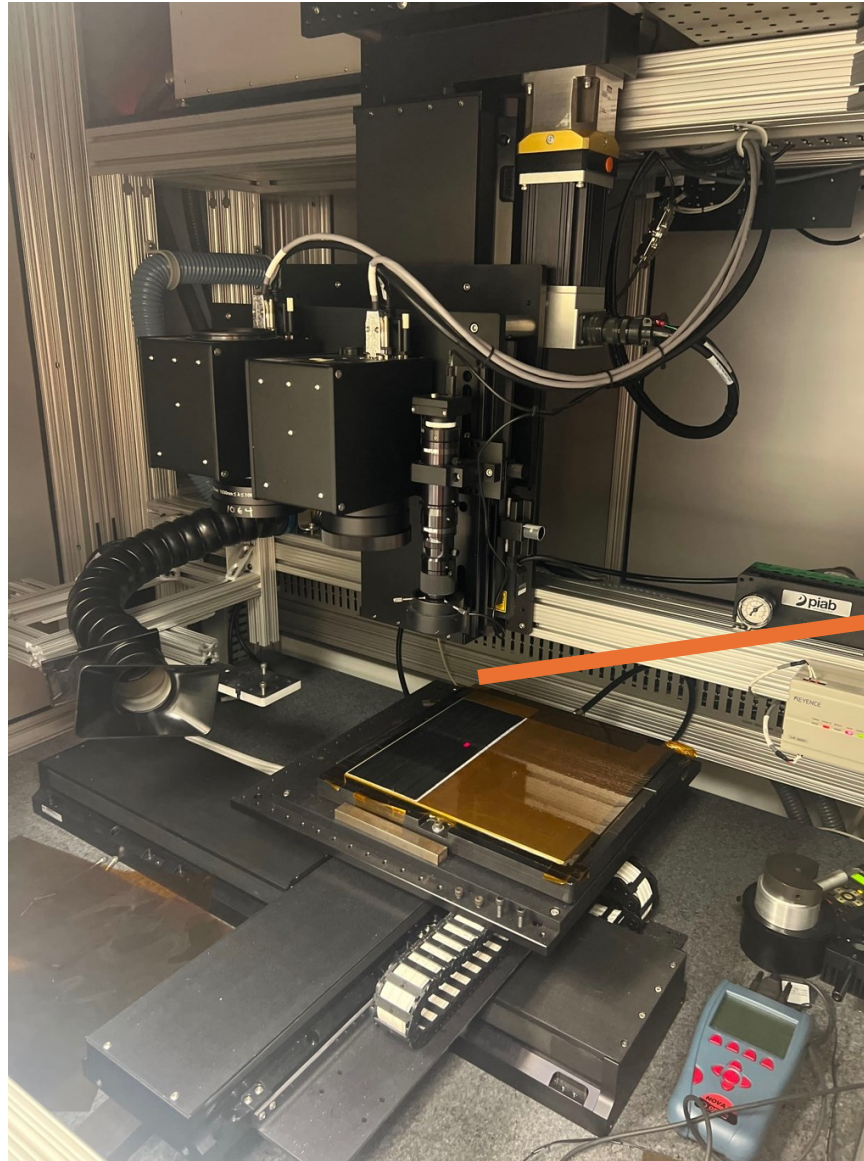


~1 MPa of Pressure



Laser Ablate Excess PEI

Ekspla Atlantic® 20 Nd:YVO₄
picosecond laser on
PhotoMachining, Inc.® system

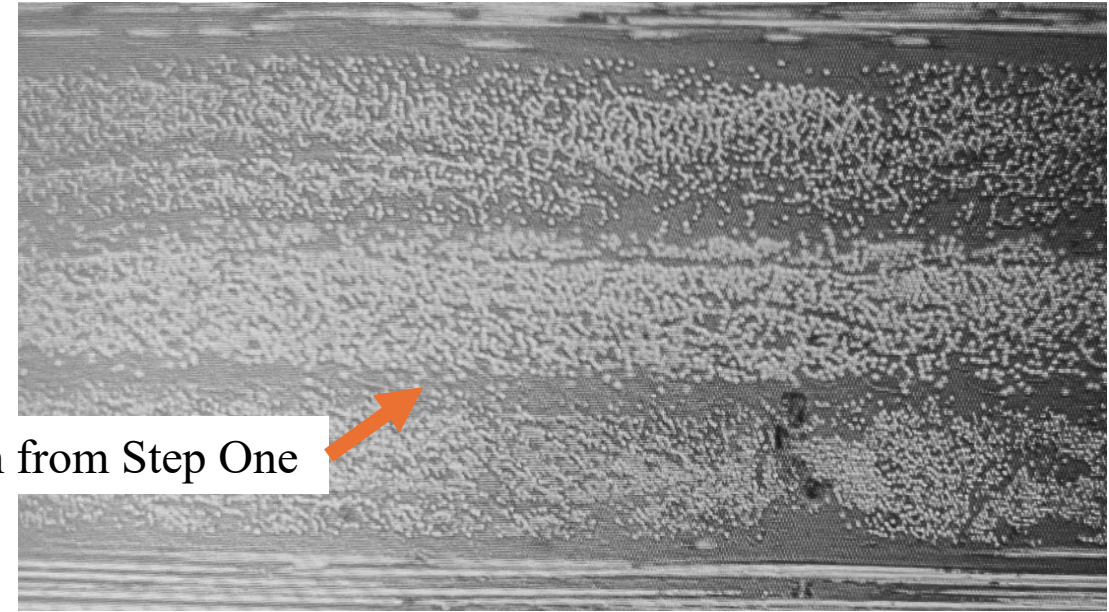
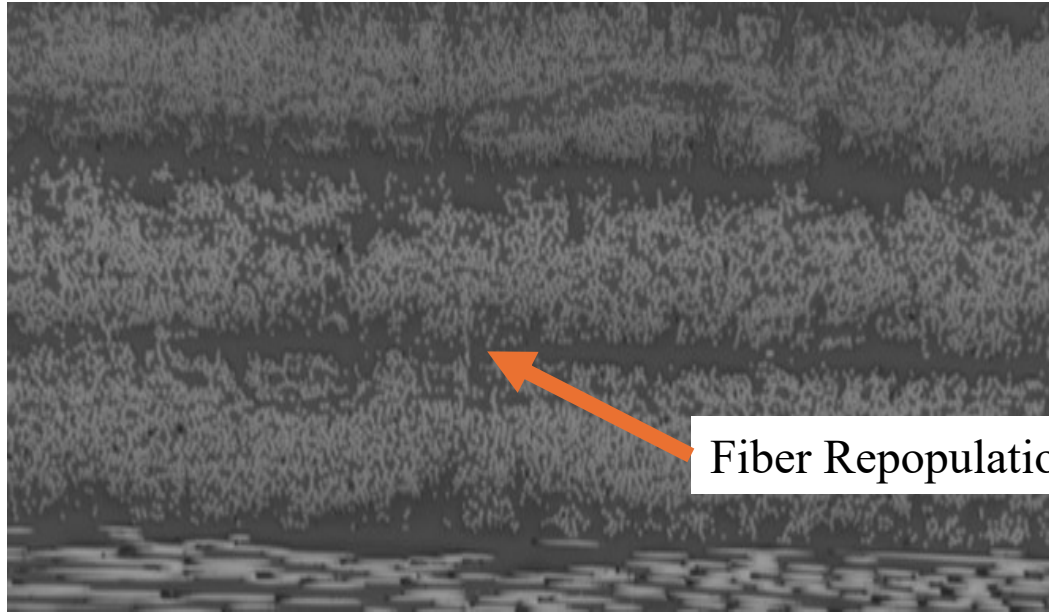


Laser Ablation Removes Excess Surface PEI

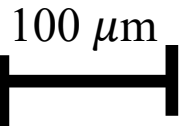
$[0, 45, -45, 90]_{2S}$ Quasi-isotropic Layup

25-micron Hybrid Tape

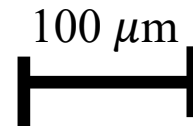
OATMEAL V1



Fiber Repopulation from Step One



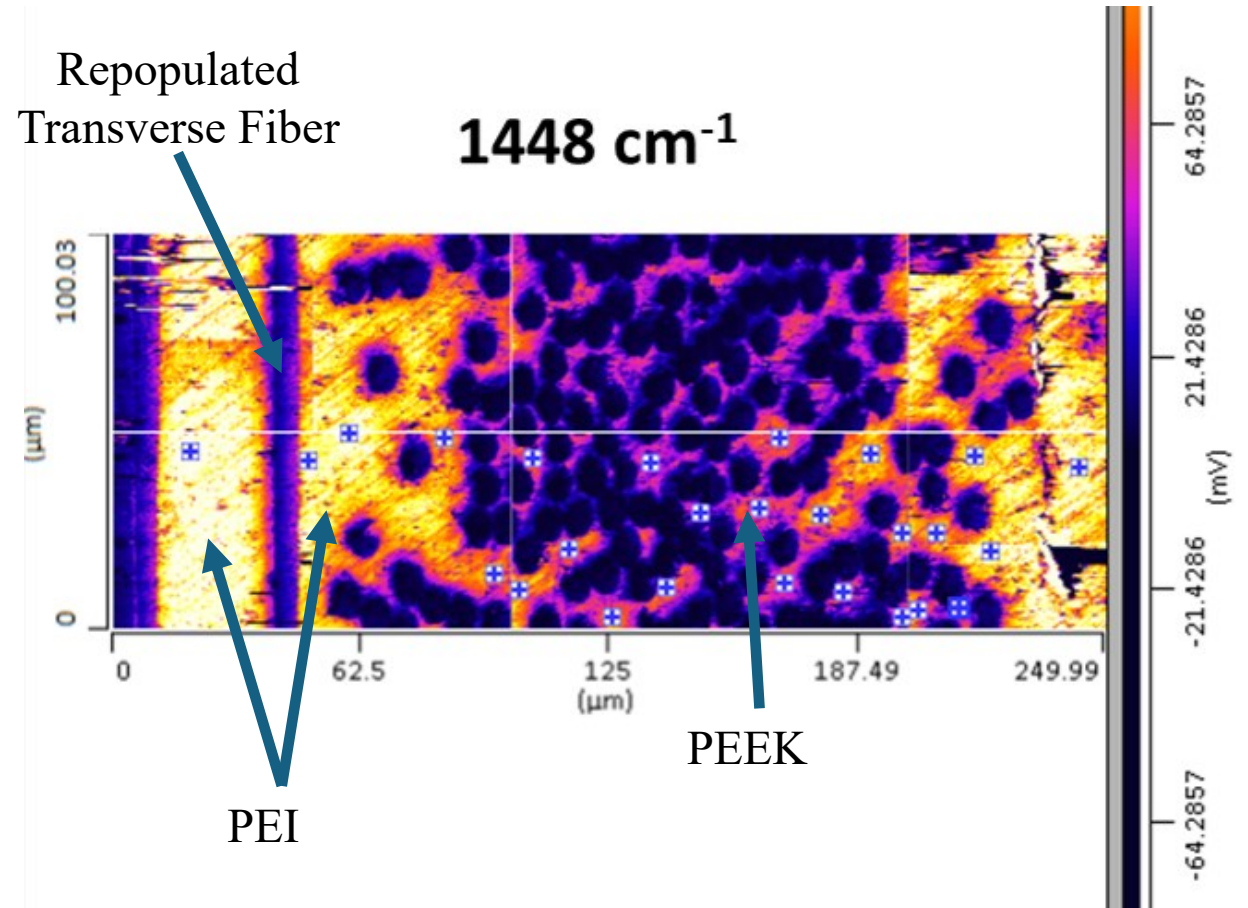
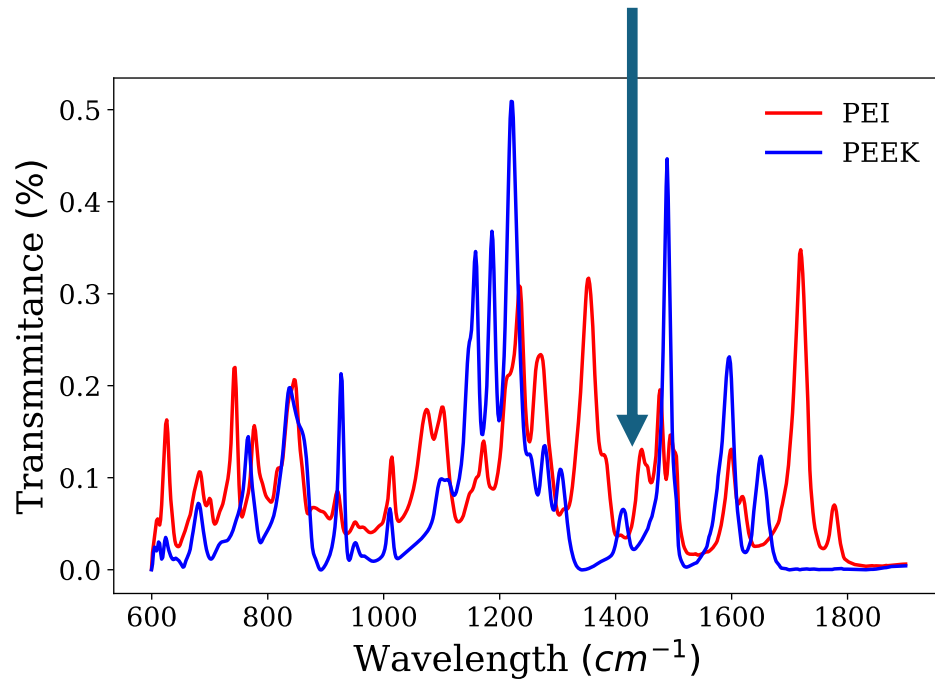
Volume fraction: ~50%
Short beam strength: 52.4 ± 3.4 MPa
Interface width: 16.38 ± 5.78 μm



Volume fraction: ~55%
Short beam strength: 66.8 ± 1.8 MPa
Interface width: 9.4 ± 2.12 μm

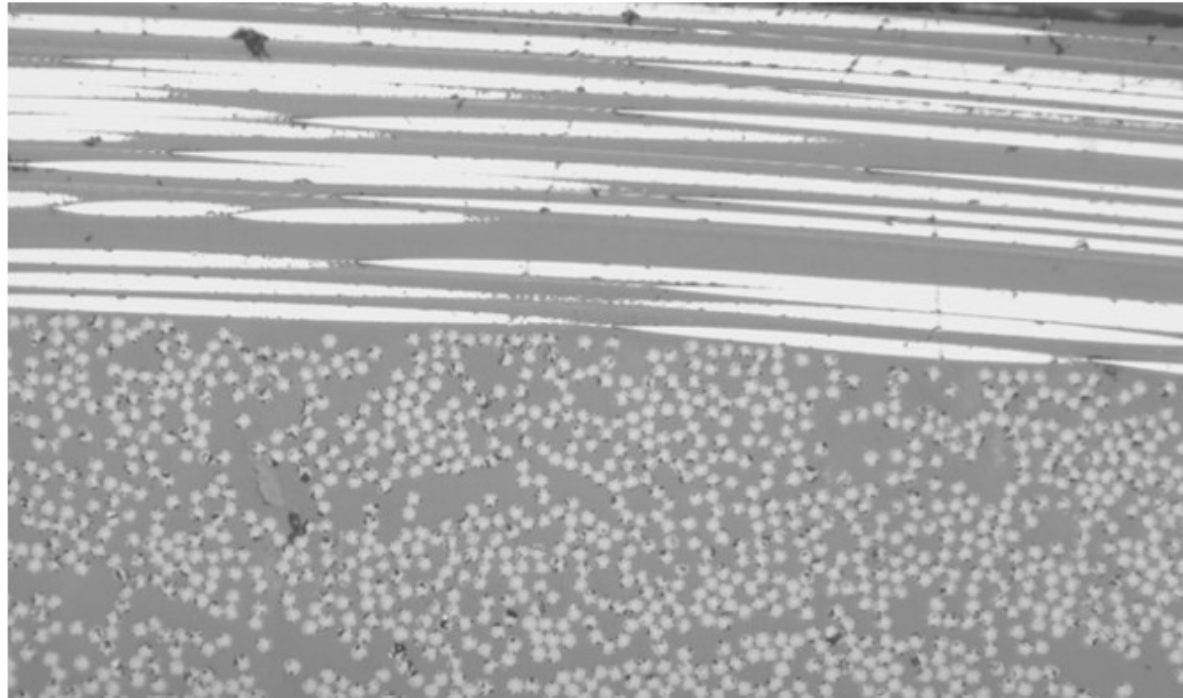


AFM-IR Measured Interdiffusion of PEI ~25-30 μm into PEEK



Reducing Pressure in Hybrid Tape Manufacturing: Less Fiber Repopulation

OATMEAL V2 – Processed $60\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C} < \text{PEEK Melt}$
Oven Processed in Step One (1/10 Pressure)

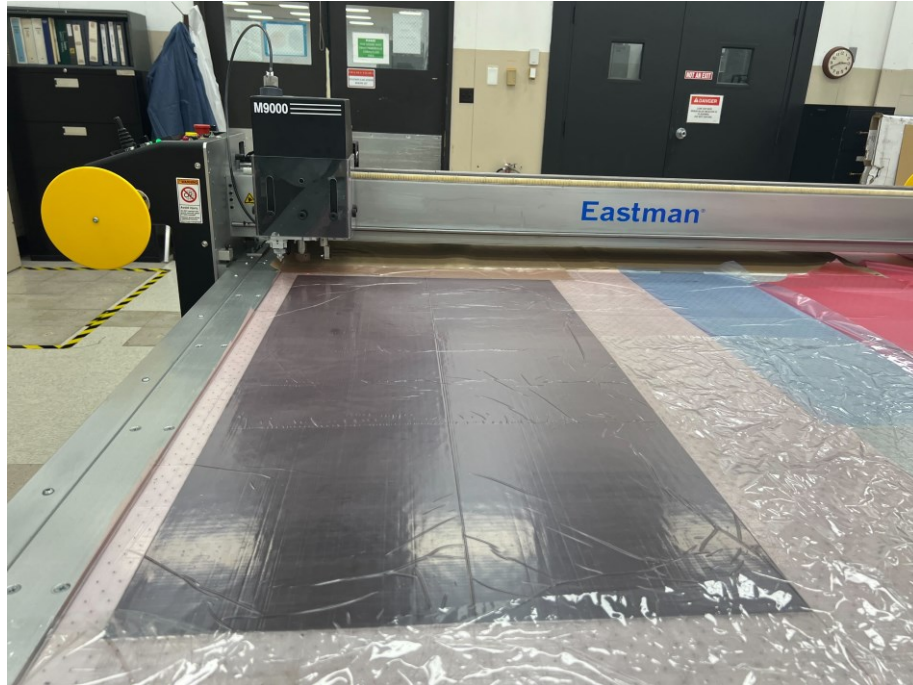


25 μm

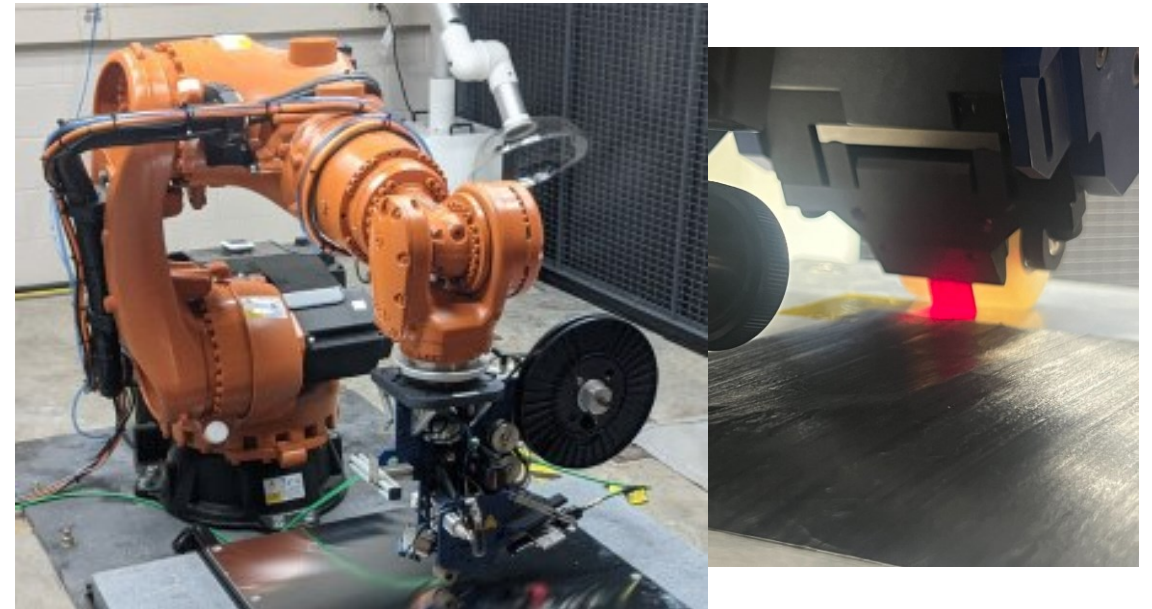


Preliminary ICAT Results are Promising

Gerber Cut 0.5 in. Slit Tapes



Tehrani Group Automated Fiber Placement (AFP) with 600 W 980 nm Laser





Joseph Kirchhoff

[Jgkirchhoff.github.io](https://jgkirchhoff.github.io)
(personal webpage)



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Recent Publications:

- 1) “In situ consolidation of carbon fiber PAEK via laser-assisted automated fiber placement”, Heathman et al., Composites Part B (2023)
- 2) “Resin percolation and intimate contact in fast processing of thermoplastic composites”, Kirchhoff et al., Composite Part A (2024)
- 3) “Interlaminar Bonding in Thermoplastic Composites: A Comparative Analysis of Laser AFP and Post-Processing”, Kirchhoff et al., SSRN (2024)
- 4) “Experimental Evaluation of the In-Situ Consolidation Automated Fiber Placement of Polyaryletherketone Composites”, Grimsley, Hudson et al., Thermoplastics Composites Conference (2024)
- 5) T. Yap, N. Heathman, B. Shirani Bidabari, E. Motta de Castro, A. Tamijani, A. Asadi, M. Tehrani, “In-Plane Properties of an In-Situ Consolidated Automated Fiber Placement Thermoplastic Composite”. Under review.