

PRESS RELEASE

ROCKFORD

ROCKFORD'S ELECTRIFICATION OF COMPOSITES TO
BE UNVEILED AT AIX - 10 APRIL 2018

AEROSPACE



Rockford is partnering with Equip'Aero Technique to develop an innovative technology solution to electrify composites for use in aircraft interiors.

Rockford – AIX Stand 2U60 (ADS UK Pavilion)

Rockford will showcase this innovative, compact and robust cabling solution at the Aircraft Interiors Exhibition in Hamburg, April 10-12th 2018 at exhibition stand 2U60, with our French composite partner Equip'Aero Technique and their unique curved composite solutions.

Rockford and Equip'Aero Technique have been working together for the past year, developing the ultimate product that could combine two completely unique processes, one from each company. Rockford's cable assembly expertise, mixed with Equip'Aero Technique's composite technology, has been merged to create a new potential line of products in the form of electrified composites.

With each company also offering unique processing abilities within their core industry, the electrified composite solution created from the Rockford-Equip'Aero Technique partnership is quite remarkable, and will provide a competitive advantage in terms of strength, compact design, hidden cables, reduced envelope space and versatility.

Rockford is known for cable assembly, wire harnesses and electro-mechanical systems, but also owns a woven cable technology that is one-of-a-kind within the UK. This process develops a low-profile, incredibly strong and highly flexible complex cable assembly using a weave technology.

Rockford manager, Mike Molland, of the Salisbury facility where the weaving machine is operational, explains that there is only one other company in the UK that can weave cables, and their machine is incapable of designing the range of weaves that Rockford can manufacture. The weave can be manufactured using a range of fabric materials such as, Kevlar, Nomex, PEEK, Nylon and Polyester, which allows our customers to use smaller and lighter wires as the tensile strength is provided by the weave material.

Mike says, "Our weave is extremely flat, highly flexible and strong enough for very demanding applications, such as motorsport and defence."

Equip'Aero Technique is a French-based composite solutions specialist, and claims that it's time for the traditional Nomex honeycomb sandwich panel to be disrupted. Technicians there have developed a new foam sandwich solution, which allows them to build complex curved shaped composites, and thus opens up a new realm of possibilities for composite applications.

Phil Curnock of Aescom explains that Equip'Aero Technique's new foam sandwich method of composite building is the ultimate way to create an electrified composite solution.

Phil says, "The traditional Nomex honeycomb sandwich panel gives you an unstable core and therefore limits the options for embedding things such as cables. The new foam sandwich method developed by Equip'Aero Technique will facilitate the electrification of composites".

Together, the electrified composite solution using woven cable technology and curved foam sandwich composites has the potential to disrupt the composite industry, with its lightweight, compact results and a wealth of potential applications. Rockford and Equip'Aero Technique are partnering to develop these applications, starting with projects within the aircraft interiors niche.

Contact Rockford on 01394 420800

sales@rockford.co.uk



A demonstration of the electrification of composites will be on display at the Aircraft Interiors Exhibition in Hamburg in the form of an electrified seat tray. Rockford's Sales and Marketing Director, Chris Parsonage, is thrilled to be showcasing such a unique centrepiece, and to bring together such a groundbreaking partnership.

Chris says, "The composite seat tray is going to be the star of the show for us, and we are all very excited to be part of the team. The mutual support and quality of engineering work done has been fantastic".

Rockford can simplify your supply chain with high-reliability bespoke designed system-level electrical equipment from prototype to production, delivered with on-site global support.

Rockford is keen to work with a variety of partners in order to create more unique electrification solutions, and invites discussions for future partnerships.

Contact Rockford on 01394 420800 or sales@rockford.co.uk for more information or visit stand 2U60 at Aircraft Interiors Exhibition in Hamburg, April 10th-12th 2018.

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ABOUT ROCKFORD

Rockford's unique engineering-driven approach to design and manufacturing delivers a cost-effective, high-quality solution to customer needs.

Rockford has since 1978 successfully addressed the high-reliability requirements of the major Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) in the defence and aerospace sectors. Our broad capability and competitiveness, combined with a reactive attitude to service means Rockford has become a major part of many important supply chains.

Rockford has the capabilities, technologies, products, and knowledge to design, manufacture, test, and deliver system-level electrical equipment that ranges from simple electrical cable assemblies and electro-mechanical sub-assemblies, and on to complete systems.

We offer a simplified, competitive and reactive supply chain, meeting your offset requirements and mitigating your risk: Designing high-performance, environmentally sealed, next-generation, high-speed, flexible cabling and system-level electrical equipment with engineering and production capacity for rapid prototypes and low to medium volume orders, delivered with on-site global engineering support.

Rockford has over 280 employees, 39 years of experience and operates from three SC21 Silver award-winning sites around the UK.

Rockford has been given the SC21 Silver award thanks to high standards of delivery, quality, sustainable improvement, and relationship excellence. The SC21 award reflects the exacting requirements of many defence and aerospace organisations worldwide.

Rockford can deliver a globally competitive solution through design excellence, ensuring all customer requirements are captured and met. Rockford's lifecycle management offers prototyping, on-site-installation, production, logistics, spares and obsolescence management.

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