

# “Aerospace: Sustainability and Lightweight Materials Technology”

ALUMINIUM Business Summit 2021  
Shaping a new Industrial Era

28 - 29 September 2021: Düsseldorf /Germany

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Alexis GONZALEZ-CHIAPPE / Airbus Operations / Toulouse / France

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# Airbus is an international pioneer in the aerospace industry

We are a leader in designing, manufacturing, and delivering aerospace products, services and solutions to customers on a global scale.



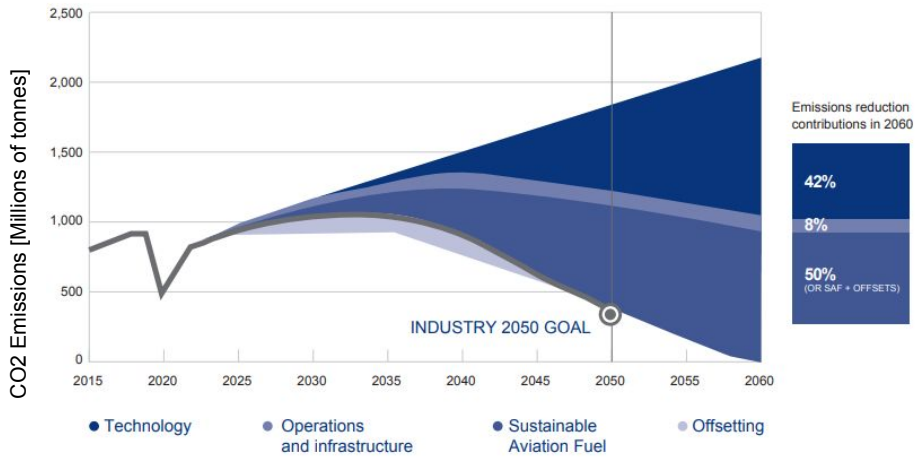
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Ambition to be the first to offer a zero-emission commercial aircraft by 2035

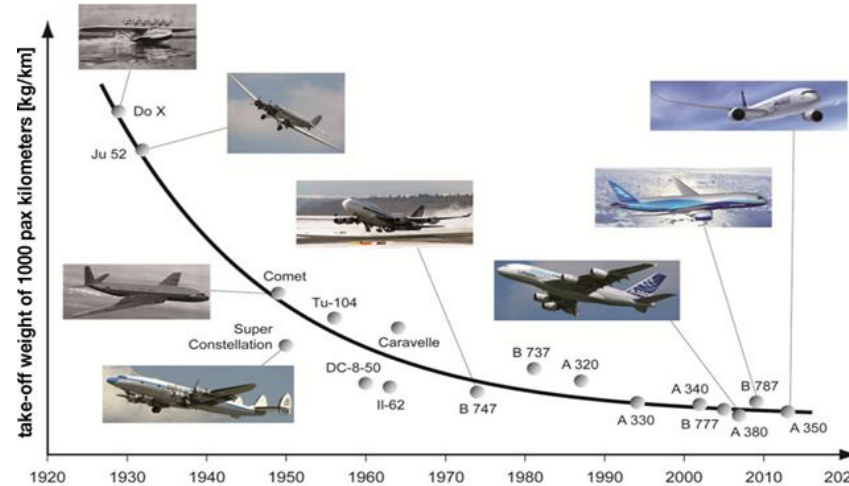
ZEROe concept aircraft powered by hydrogen

# Sustainability

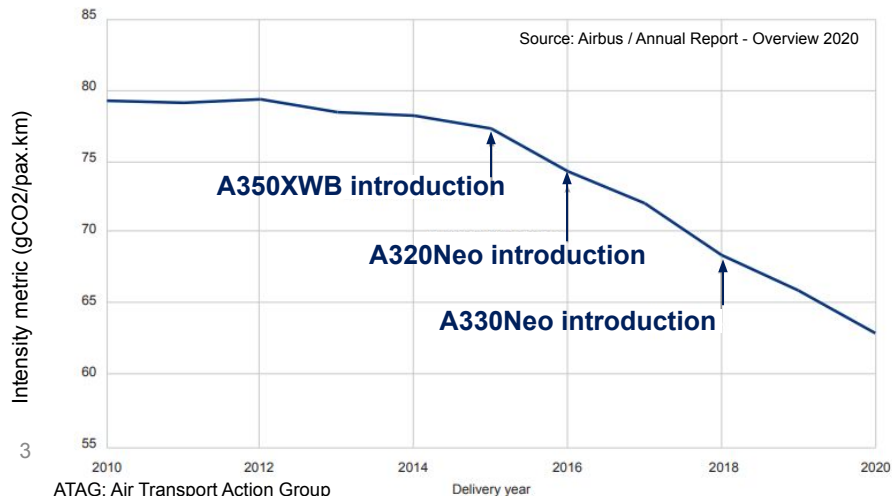
## ATAG WAYpoint 2050



## Technology & Take off Weight



## Airbus reducing Emission



## Design & fuel-efficient aircraft

The latest generation of fuel-efficient Airbus Family aircraft

A220	A320neo	A330neo	A350
2016 entry into service	2016 entry into service	2018 entry into service	2012 entry into service
<b>-25% CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per seat*</b>	<b>-20% CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per seat*</b>	<b>-25% CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per seat*</b>	<b>-25% CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per seat*</b>
Optimised aerodynamics & optimum airframe, wings, winglet & engine integration	Sharklet™ wingtips for reduced fuel burn over longer sectors	High-span wing with composite Sharklet™ wingtips	Adaptive wing design for maximum aerodynamic efficiency
Lightweight thanks to 40% advanced composite materials	Next-generation engines with high-performance turbofans	New composite nacelle for improved aerodynamics	Lightweight thanks to 70% advanced composite materials

# Aviation

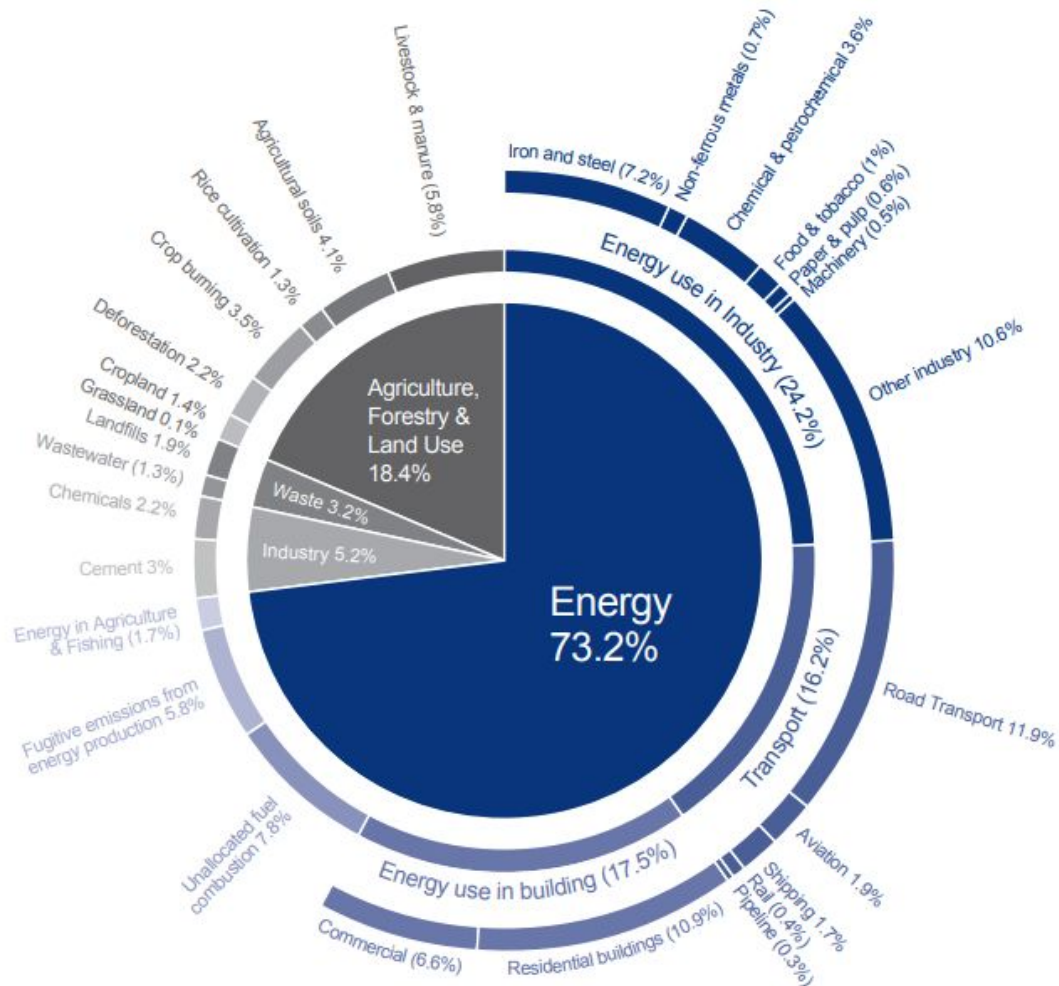
65.5 million jobs worldwide

3.6% on the global GDP

4 billion passengers were transported in 2018

# Sustainability

## Global greenhouse gas emission by sectors



## Footprint reduction

“...Turning to industrial operations, the **High5+ initiative** aims to **reduce the footprint of all Airbus activities globally and across the supply chain**. It has specific targets for 2030, against a 2015 base line, **for cutting energy consumption, CO2 emissions, water consumption, volatile organic compound emissions and waste production.**”

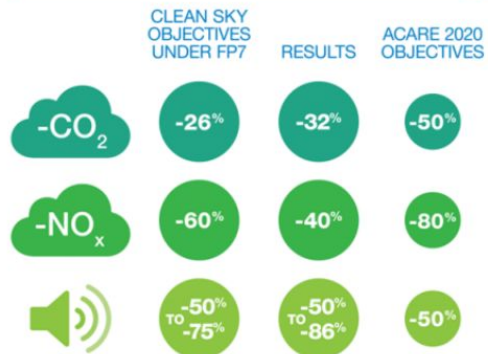
# High5+

“Sustainability is now deeply ingrained in the Company’s purpose and is truly becoming part of its DNA.”

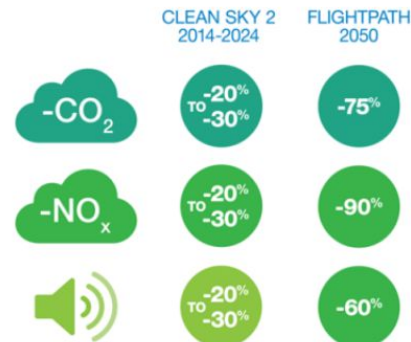
# Next Generation & Sustainable M&P

Environmental responsibility across the entire lifecycle

## CLEAN SKY OBJECTIVES 2008-2017



## CLEAN SKY 2 OBJECTIVES



# Product responsibility

The right balance between social, economical and environmental commitments.

## Key ambitions

DECARBONISATION

ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT

CIRCULAR MODEL  
ECO DESIGN  
DIGITALISATION

NEW BUSINESSES



# Airbus climate action plan



Improving fuel burn of our existing fleet



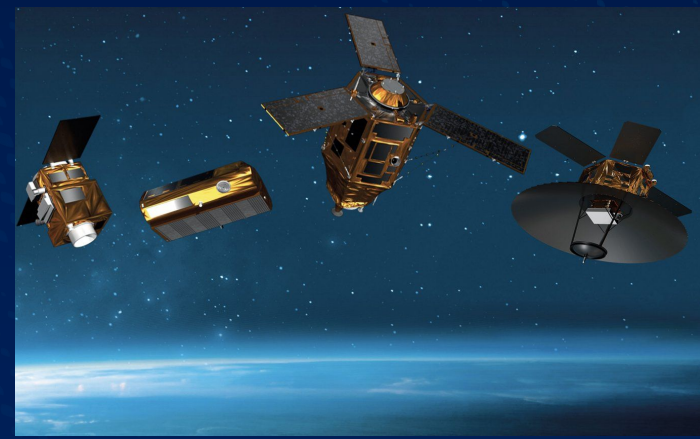
Investing in zero-emission technologies



Developing sustainable alternative fuels (SAF)



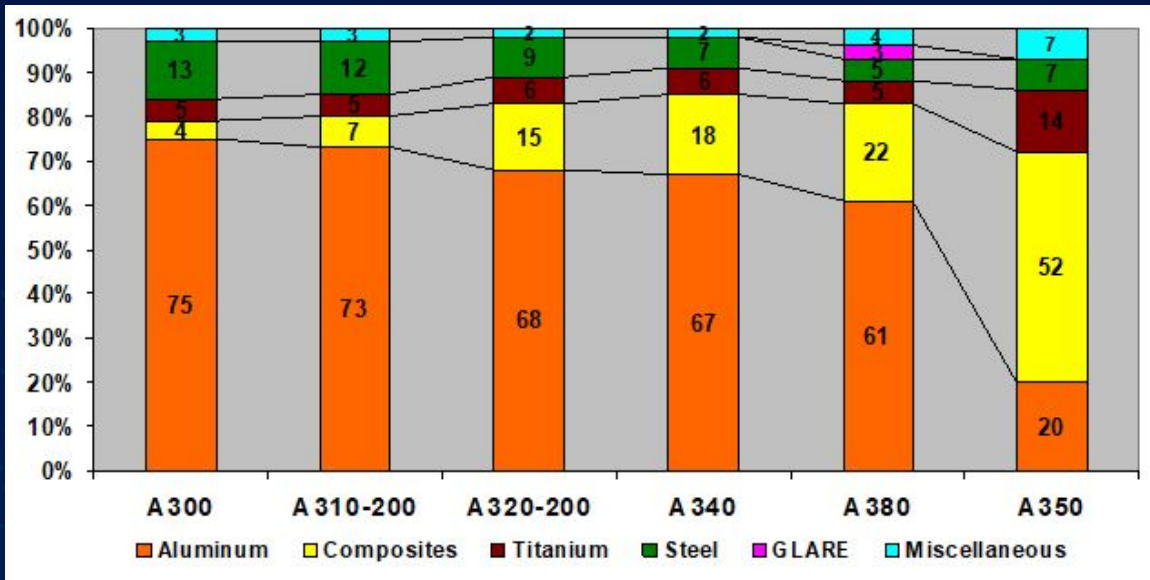
Optimised day-to-day aircraft operations



Monitoring climate change

# Material technologies at Airbus

## Decrease of Aluminum Usage



Note: Engine, Landing Gear not included

**Sustainable A/C**  
**Digital E2E supply chain**

- A300/A310**
- SPF Ti
  - Chemical milling
  - Interference bolting
  - 7475 Al-alloy sheet/plate

- A320**
- High strength Al-castings
  - 7150 Al-alloy plate (wing)
  - Automated Lok bolting
  - Split sleeve cold working

- A330/A340**
- Age forming
  - High Speed Machining
  - 2X24 Al-alloys
  - LVER\* riveting
  - SPF Al

- A340-600/-500**
- Premium Al-castings
  - 7349 Al-alloy extrusions
  - Split mandrel cold working

- A318**
- Laser beam welding LBW
  - 6013/6056 Al-alloys
  - New bonding technology

- A380**
- Fiber Metal Laminates
  - EB and extended LBW
  - Al-Li alloys, Ti-alloys
  - Al-alloys: 2024HDT, 7055HF
  - Large die forging (7085)
  - New coatings
  - Larger panels

- A320neo**
- Al-Li alloys for ribs
  - CrVI free surface
  - Topology optimisation

**A350**

AIMgSc & Al-X-Li

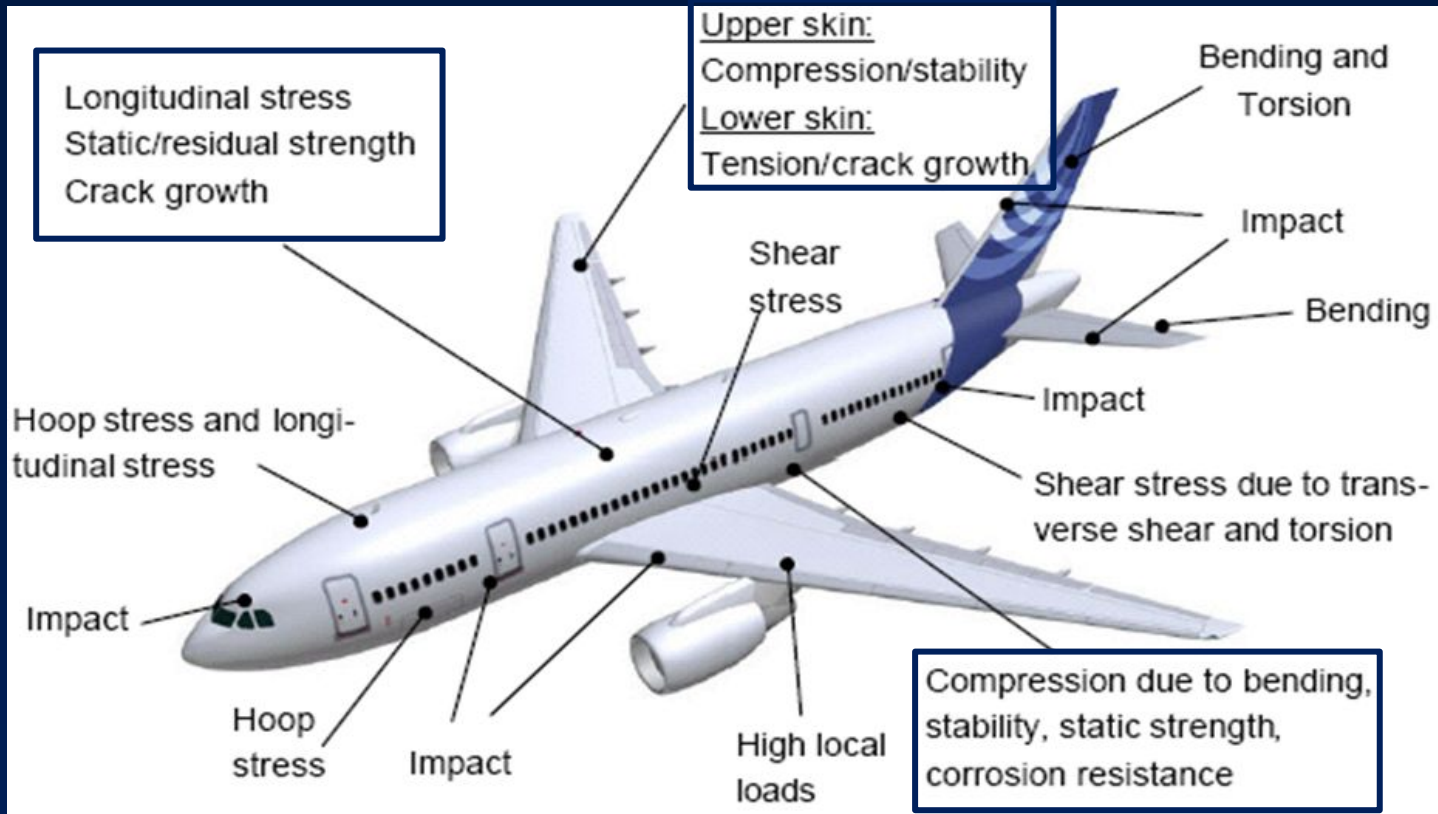
Introducing Airbus **ZEROe**

Turboprop		<100 Passengers	1,000+nm Range
Blended-Wing Body		<200 Passengers	2,000+nm Range
Turbofan		<200 Passengers	2,000+nm Range

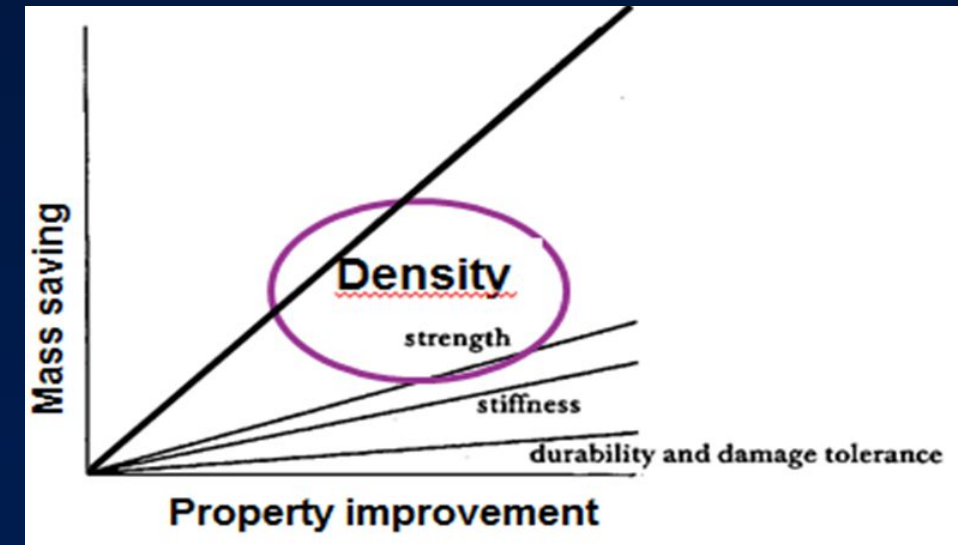
**AIRBUS**

# Material technologies at Airbus

## Aircraft Fuselage Design – General Requirements



## Weight savings & material properties



Alloy	$\Delta\rho$ [%]	$\Delta$ Young's Modulus [%]
AlCuMg	-	-
AlMgSiCu	-2,5	+ 1,5
AlCuLi	-5	+11,1
AlMgSc	-4,7	+ 5,8
AlMgLi	-9,4	+11,6

⇒ Ca. 80% of SA typical fuselage is designed by fatigue, DT & reparability

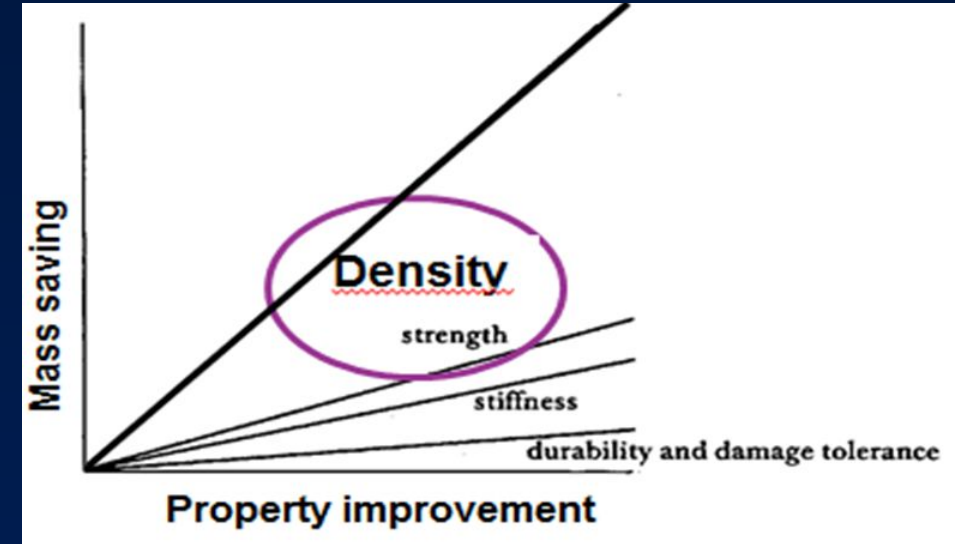
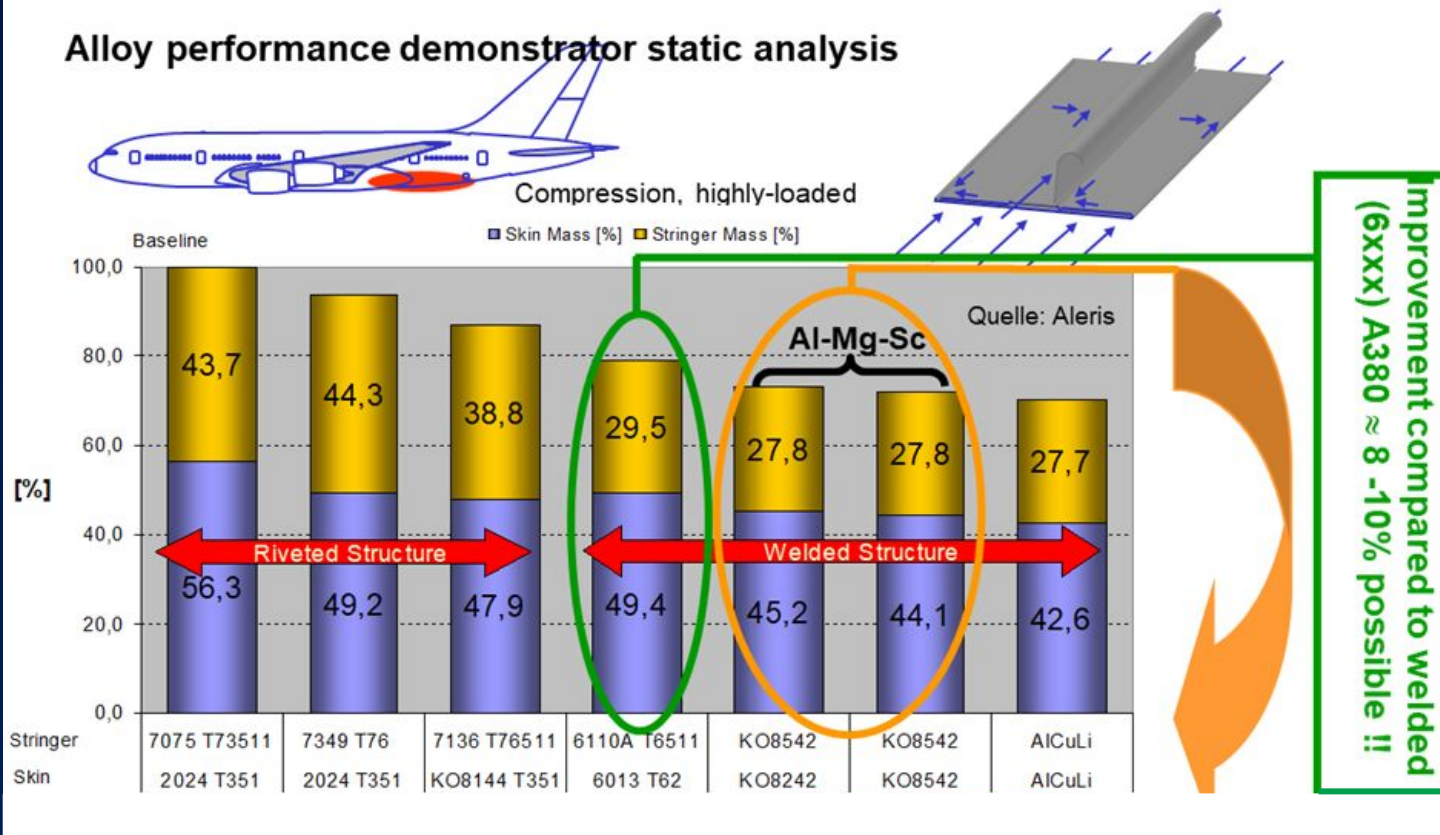


# Material technologies at Airbus

New advanced technologies & materials Al-Mg-Sc & Al-X-Li

Weight savings & material properties

Alloy performance demonstrator static analysis

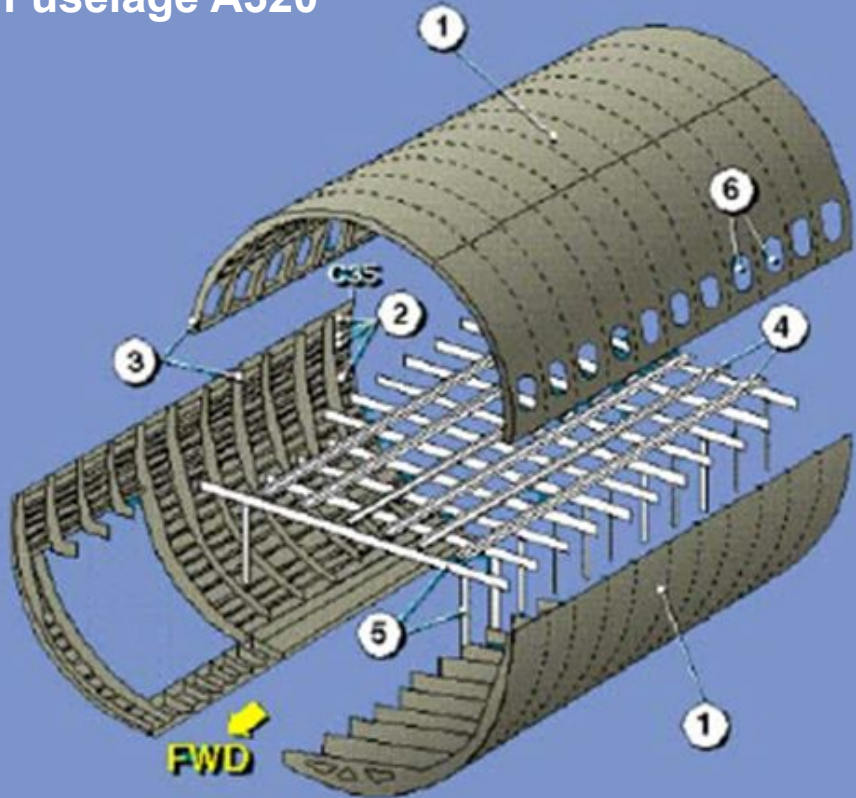


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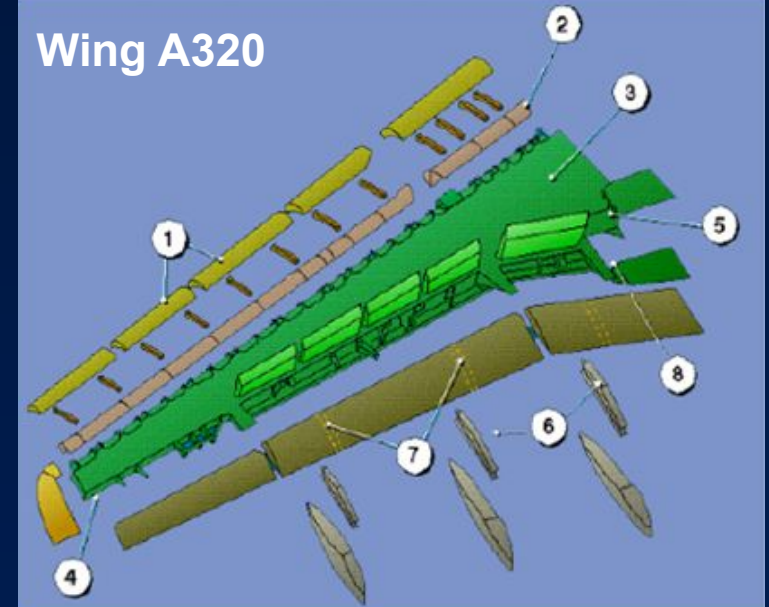
# Material technologies at Airbus

Fuselage A320



- 1 **SKIN:** 2024 CLAD SHEET
- 2 **STRINGERS:**  
2024 CLAD STRIP  
2024 EXTRUSIONS  
7075 EXTRUSIONS
- 3 **FRAMES:**  
2024 CLAD SHEET  
2024 PLATES (mach.)  
7010/7050 PLATES (mach.)  
7075 PLATES (mach.)
- 4 **SEAT TRACKS:**  
7175 EXTRUSIONS
- 5 **FLOOR BEAMS & STRUTS:**  
7175 EXTRUSIONS
- 6 **PAX WINDOW FRAMES:**  
7175 PRECISION FORGING

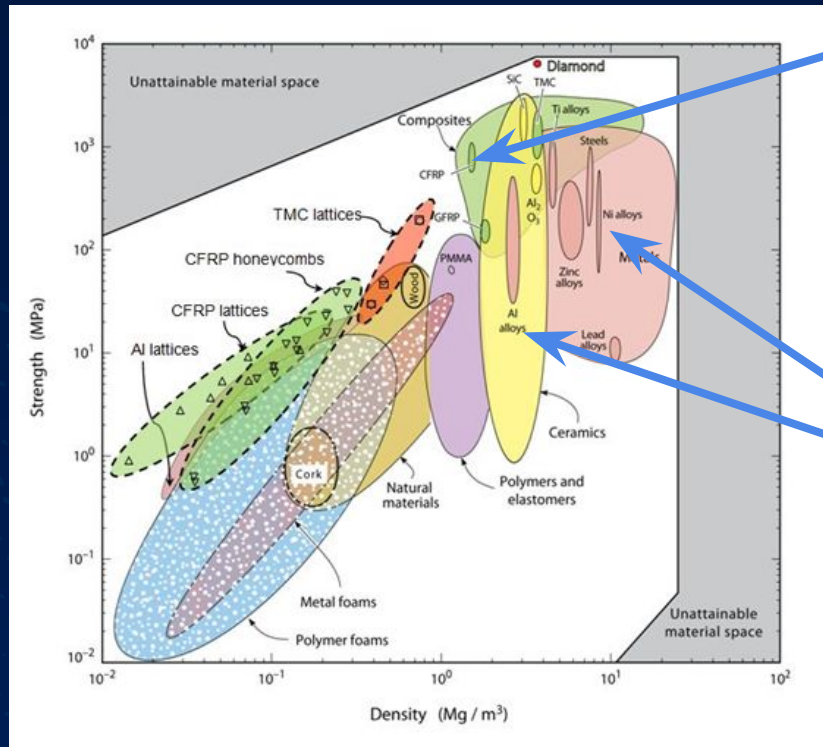
Wing A320



- 1 **SLATS-SKINS & RIBS:**  
2618 SHEET
- 2 **D-NOSE SKINS:**  
2024 SHEET
- 3 **TOP PANEL:**  
7150 PLATES & EXTRUSIONS
- 4 **BOTTOM PANEL:**  
2024 PLATES & EXTRUSIONS
- 5 **SPARS & RIBS:**  
7010/7050 PLATES
- 6 **FLAP SUPPORT:**  
7175 FORGINGS
- 7 **FLAP TRACKS:**  
A357 CASTINGS  
7075 PLATES
- 8 **MAIN LANDING GEAR SUPPORT:**  
2014 FORGINGS  
7010/7050 FORGINGS

# Material technologies at Airbus

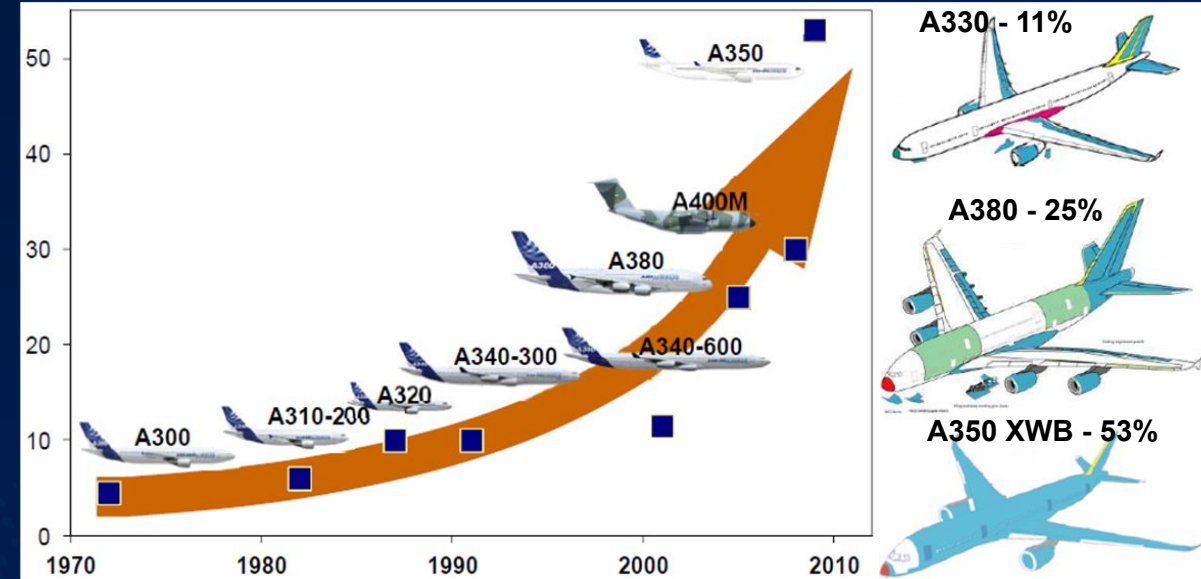
## Why Composite Materials?



CFRP

Metallic Materials

## Increase of Composite Usage



## CARBON FIBRE COMPOSITE:

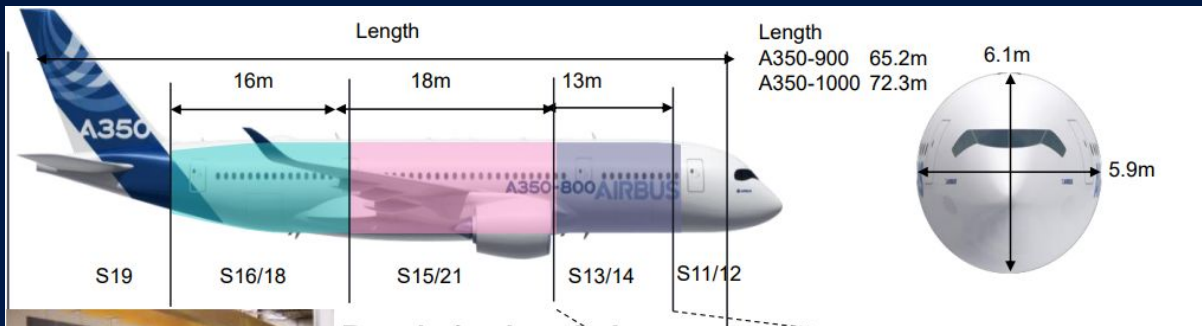
- Highest strength-to-weight ratio
- Highest Tensile Strength
- Dimensional Stability
- Very good fatigue behaviour
- Specific design possibilities, adjusting fibers direction of some layers to the applied loads

## METALS & METALLIC ALLOYS:

- Static behaviour
- Good impact resistance
- Reparability
- Recyclability

# Material technologies at Airbus

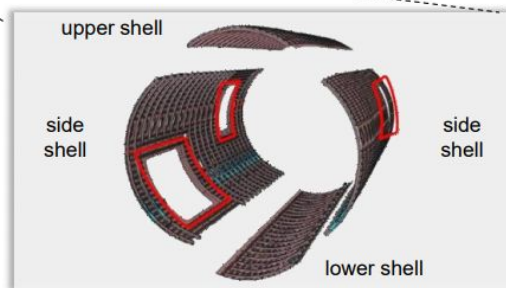
## Fuselage A350XWB



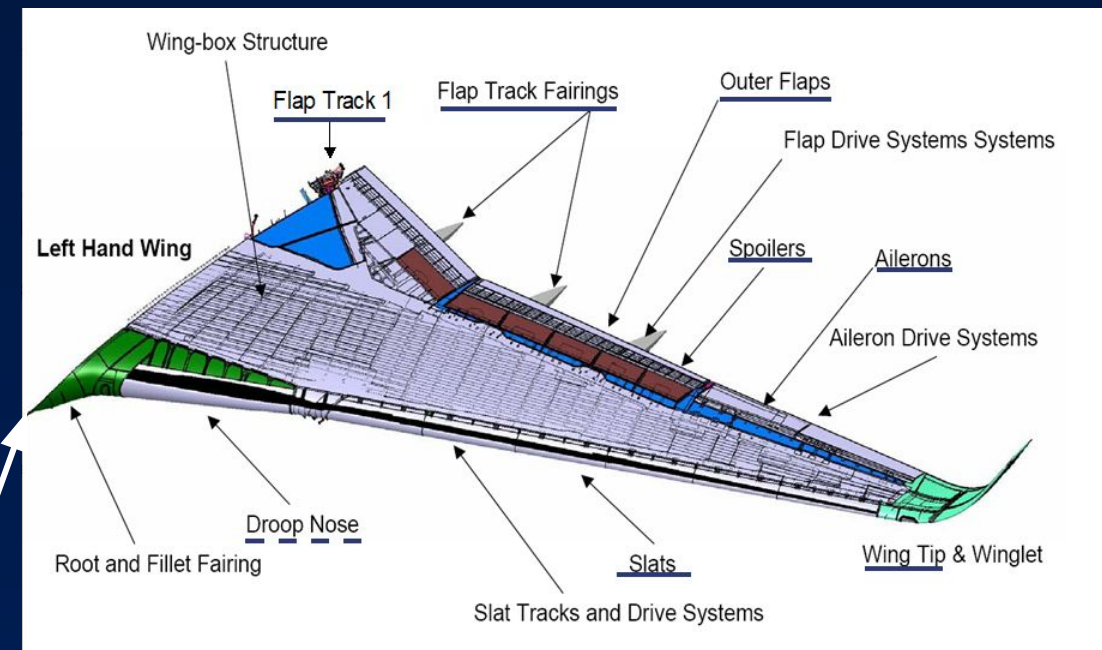
**Panels / cobonded stringers CFRP**



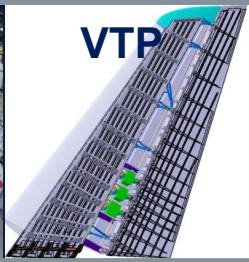
**Pax Doors CFRP**



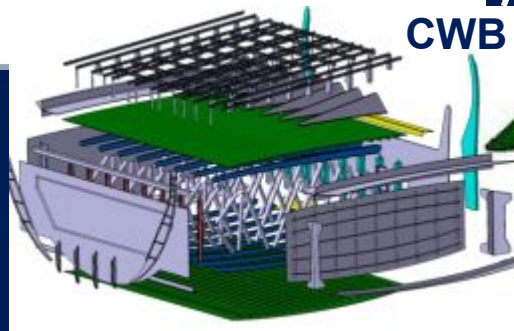
## Wing A350XWB



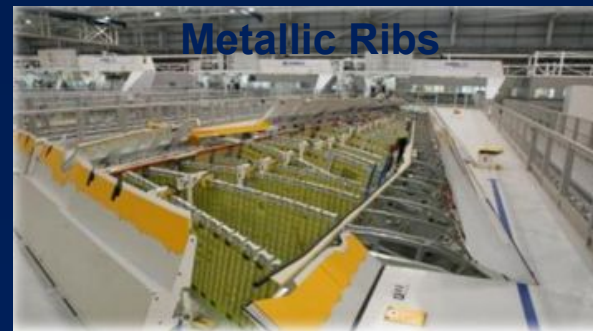
**HTP**



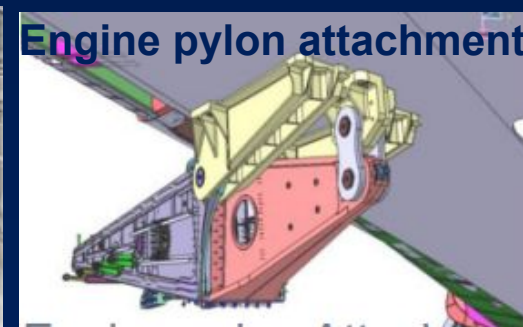
**VTP**



**CWB**



**Metallic Ribs**



**Engine pylon attachment**

# Example for Circularity in Metal Manufacturing



## Use of recycled content

Material specifications allow the **use of recycled content** for the production of virgin material.

Dependent on the supplier and concrete metal materials **up to 70% of recycled content** is used in some aluminium or titanium alloys. This **reduces the extraction of materials** and **lowers the energy footprint**.



## Chip recycling

Chips are collected, different materials separated from each other and sorted with respect to contamination to aim **for high value recycling**.

**100%** of metal chips are recycled.



## Buy-to-fly reduction

Although metal chips can be recycled at high value, metal manufacturing aims to **optimize material consumption**.

The buy-to-fly ratio for some machined parts could be **reduced by a factor of 7** by innovative nesting process imposed on the supply chain.



## Additive Manufacturing

**3D printing** is already part of our manufacturing process, and our fleet is equipped with metal and plastic parts produced by this innovative technique.

Additive manufacturing requires **30% to 55% less weight**, **90% less raw material** and up to **90% less energy and water**.

# Example for Circularity in Composite Manufacturing



## Thermoset reuse

Uncured composite thermoset material at manufacturing level like cutting areas or end of spools are collected and reprocessed to be **reused** in our products.

The end of spools uncured thermoset material from the **A350 wing skins is reintroduced as gusset filler**. More than 6 tonnes of materials saved.



## Thermoplastic reuse

Thermoplastic material has the great potential of **recovering fiber and resin** for reuse.

**Thermoplastic foam** production **cut-offs** from door- & doorframes-linings are sorted and reprocessed. Currently 4th generation qualified for initial application.



## Buy-to-fly reduction

Composite manufacturing aims for **maximum efficiency in composite material consumption**. A low buy-to-fly ratio is supported by material format, nesting optimization and innovative material layup technologies.

For the A350 wing cover the **waste could be reduced by 30%** by introducing automated fiber placement (AFP) instead of automated tape layer (ATL).



## Bio-based content


Introduction of bio-based content in composite materials is key to **move away from reliance on petrochemical industry**.

We are working in frame of **research and technology** on the production of carbon fibers from biomass captured CO2 and bio-based resins.

# Al-X-Sc- Scalmalloys<sup>®</sup> for ALM ⇒ “game-changer”

**Alloy Patents (IM):**

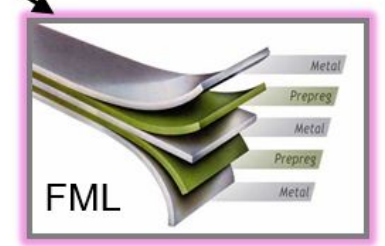
- 1x Alloy with medium Mg
- 2x Alloys with ↑ Mg
- ScalmalloySc<sup>®</sup> →
- Strip Casting**



**Forming Patent:**

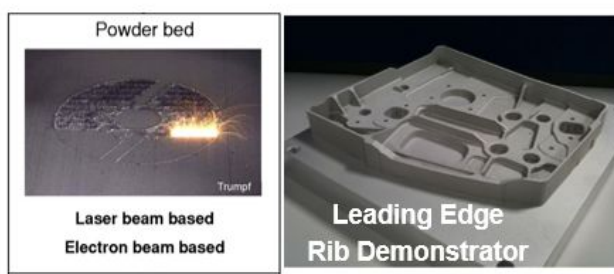
- 1x Creep forming of Al-structures

**FML**

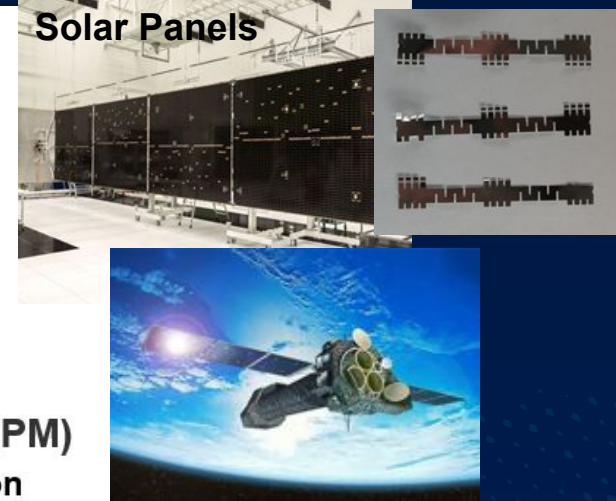


**Alloy Process Know-How (PM)**

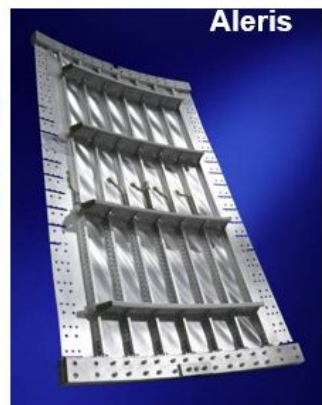
- Scalmalloy<sup>®</sup> → extrusion
- Scalmalloy RP for ALM



**Solar Panels**



- Low density
- Corrosion resistance
- Weldability
- “Creep formability”
- Thermo-stability
- Xenon ion erosion resistivity



Scalmalloy<sup>®</sup> ScalmalloySC<sup>®</sup> ScalmalloyRP<sup>®</sup>

Calciscal<sup>®</sup> Scancromal<sup>®</sup> Scantital<sup>®</sup>

**1990** 12 **Mg** 24.31u

**1996** Welded A/C structure: sheet, extrusion; in. casting

**2003** PM-high strength weldable profiles

**2010** Strip casting (twin roll); “Care free A/C structures”

**2012** FML Foils for “Clad free A/C structures”

**2013** 3D-powder bed fusion FOUNDATION APWORKS

**2016** Solar cell interconnectors Xenon resistant & weldable

**2021 beyond** **ALM opportunities**

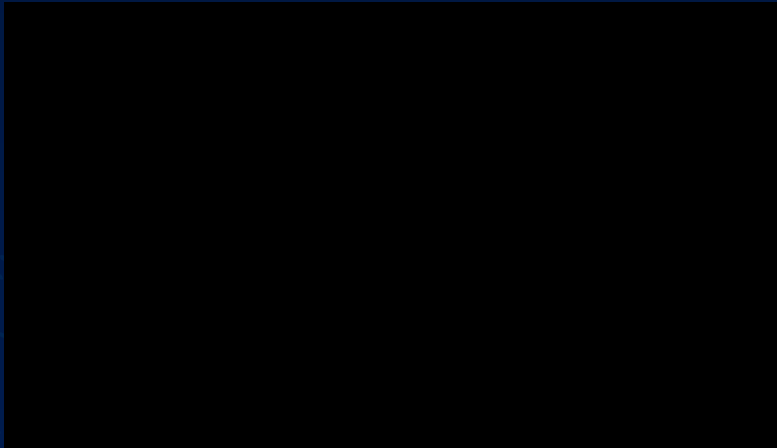
**20** **Ca** 40.08u

**24** **Cr** 52.00u

**22** **Ti** 47.87u

**AIRBUS**

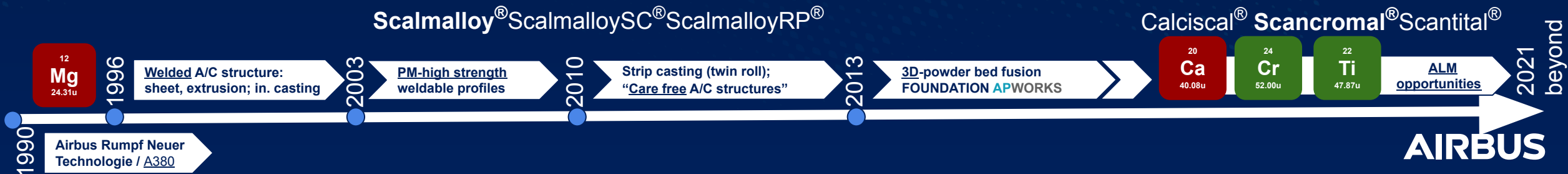
# Al-X-Sc- Scalmalloys<sup>®</sup> for ALM ⇒ “game-changer”



Scalmalloy<sup>®</sup>



Scancromal<sup>®</sup>



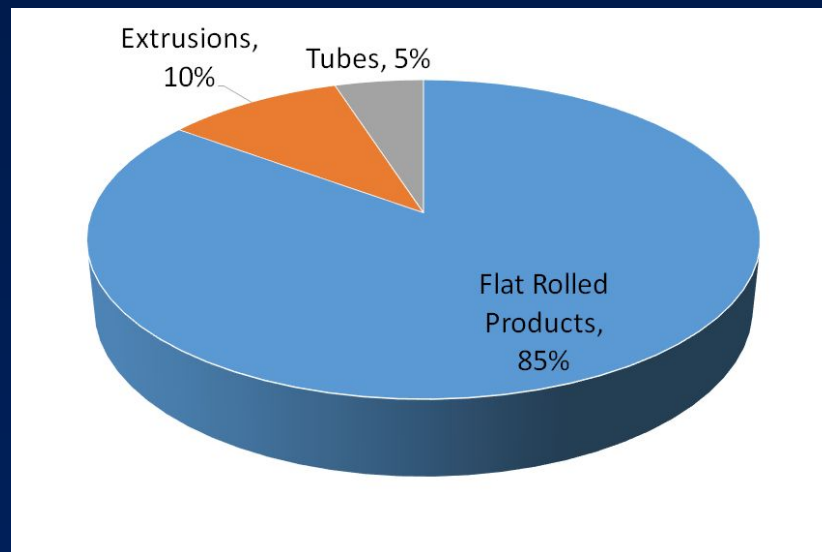


# Aluminium in Airbus

## KEY FIGURES

- Airbus Aluminium annual consumption: ~100kT/ Year)
- **6 Sub - products:** Plates, Sheets, Wing skins, Extrusions, Tubes and Bars.
- **Global Supply Chain:** >10 suppliers distributed in Europe, US and China

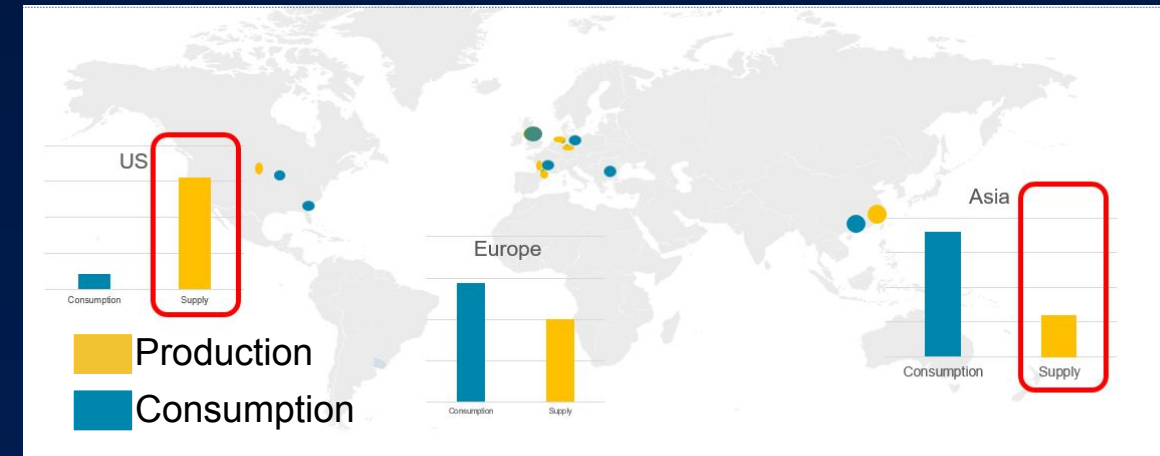
## ALUMINIUM CONSUMPTION SPLIT PER PRODUCT\*



\* In volume

\* Based on ConBid 2020 demand

## ALUMINIUM GLOBAL FLOWS

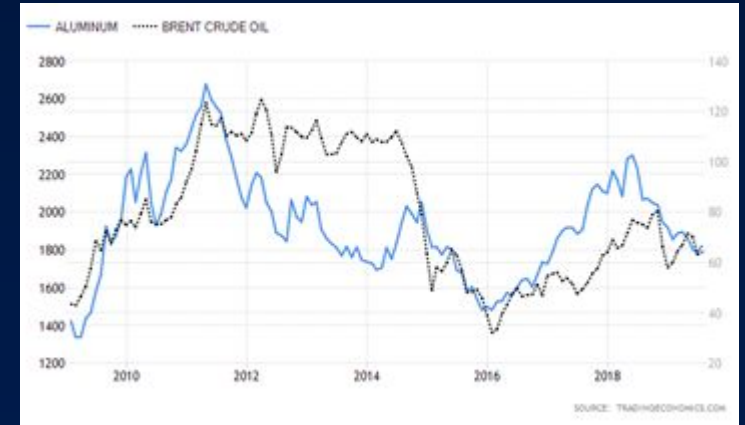


- **Global supply chain** supporting **Local-for-local (L4L)** consumption: ~75% of demand locally optimized
- **Unbalanced** Production Vs Demand in **North America**
- **Increasing production in China** driven by **strategic** initiatives by Airbus

# Aluminium Market Trend and Geopolitical Context

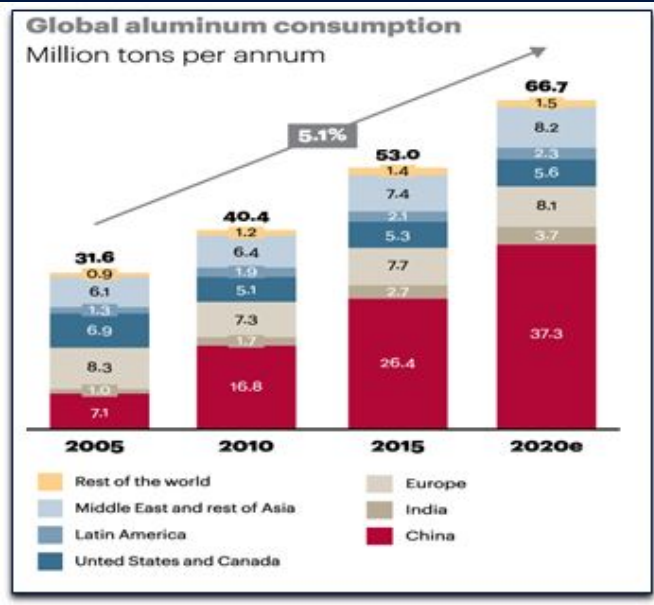
## MARKET TREND & KEY FIGURES

- Global aluminium demand is significantly growing (+5.1%/year over the last 15 years) driven by **China** and the **automotive** industry
- Instability of Raw Aluminium prices (e.g. LME) driven by **speculation** and Geopolitical context
- Airbus only represents **0.15%** of the **Global Demand**

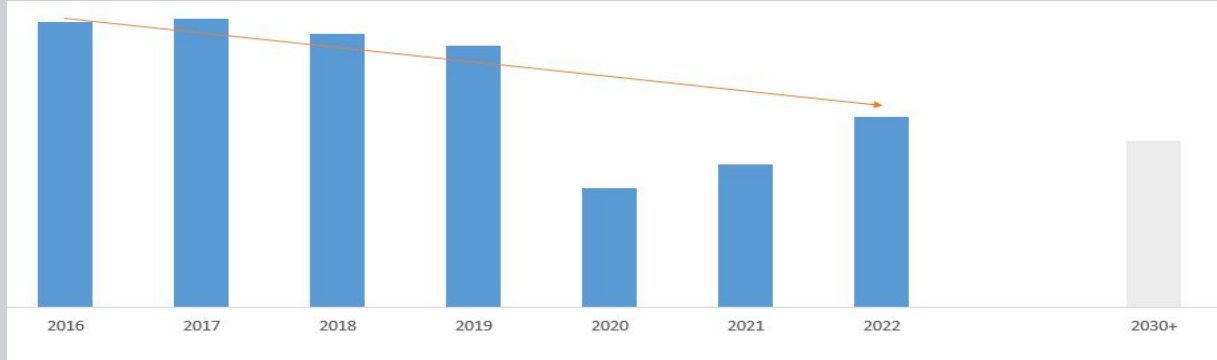
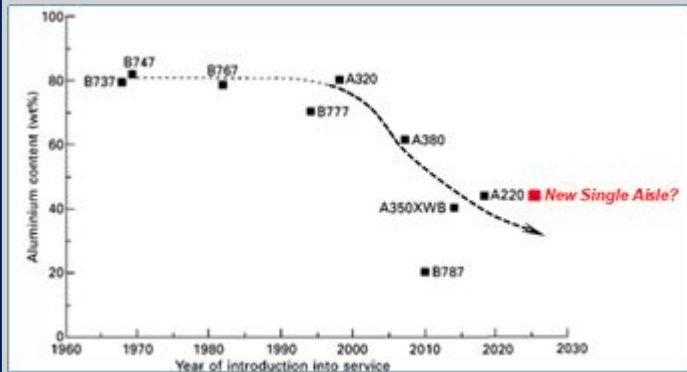


## GEOPOLITICAL CONTEXT

- Global **Trade War** initiated by US administration (+10% Aluminium imports to US) followed by EU (+25% on Al Sheets and Extrusions), China and Canada led to 12 M\$ over cost to Airbus in 2019
- **Brexit** will have a significant impact on both and Production



## AIRBUS ALUMINIUM CONSUMPTION EVOLUTION



- **Demand decrease** expected mid and long term driven by B2F optimisation & increased use CFRP in detriment of Aluminium

# Digital Design, Manufacturing & Services

## Virtual CO-Developments/Twins



<p>Time to get a fix Accident rate reduction</p> <p><b>SAFETY</b></p>	<p><b>MATURITY</b></p> <p>Product Industrial system Operability</p>	<p>Cut the Development <b>LEAD TIME</b></p> <p>Start of concept / MG3 to Entry Into Service</p>	<p>Design for Manufacturing Robust production set-up Flexible production update</p> <p><b>ROBUST PRODUCTION RAMP-UP</b></p>	<p><b>SERVICES</b></p> <p>Provide processes and tools to support services ambition</p>	
<p><b>CUSTOMER LOYALTY</b></p> <p>Improved customer satisfaction</p>	<p><b>DESIGN FOR VALUE</b></p> <p><b>RC NRC</b></p>	<p>Decoupling Fuselage/Cabin Modular approach</p> <p>lead time</p> <p><b>CUSTOMISATION</b></p>	<p>Mastering our industrial system</p> <p>Improve quality perceived by our customers</p> <p><b>QUALITY</b></p>	<p><b>OPERATIONAL AVAILABILITY &amp; RELIABILITY</b></p> <p>zero AOG</p>	<p><b>SUSTAINABILITY</b></p> <p>Improve the global carbon footprint</p> <p>Be in line with the Airbus 2030 vision</p>

### Key ambitions

INCREASING CUSTOMER  
DEMANDS



EVOLVING SOCIETAL  
EXPECTATIONS



NEED FOR  
BREAKTHROUGH



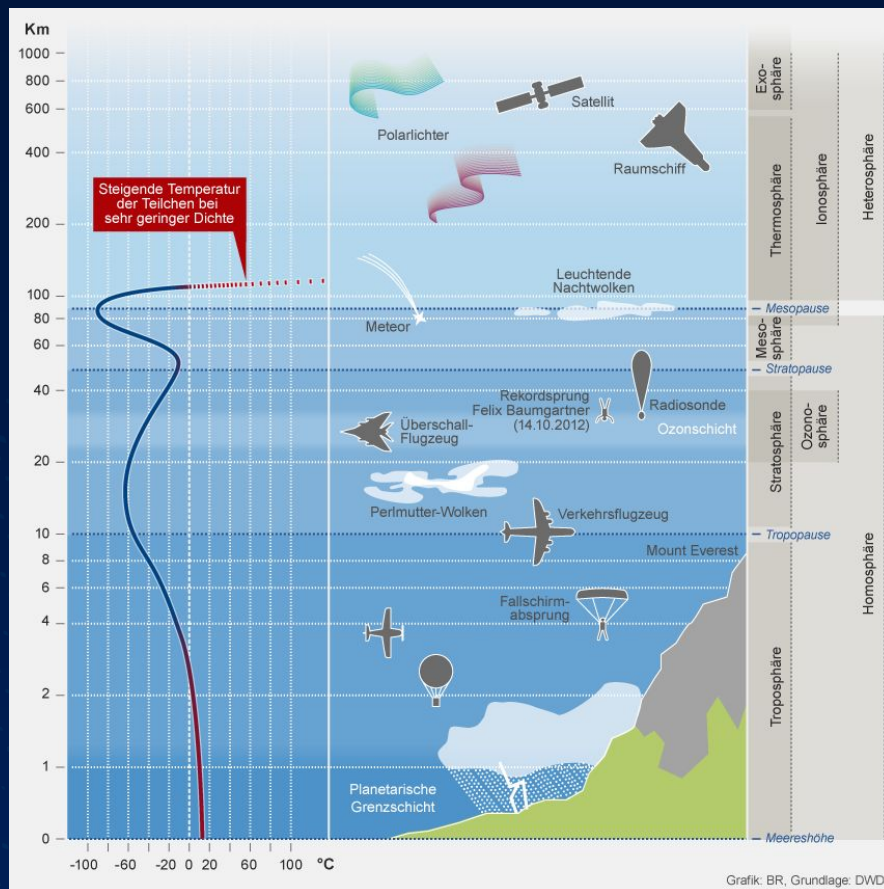
# DDMS

Step change in our operational efficiency **across the whole lifecycle** of our programs and products drivers to enable breakthrough.

### 5 pillars:

- Transformation & competences
- Modelling & simulation
- Co-development & Integration
- Digital Continuity & Tool Chain
- Product lines

# Materials Ecosystem & Sustainable drivers for M&P

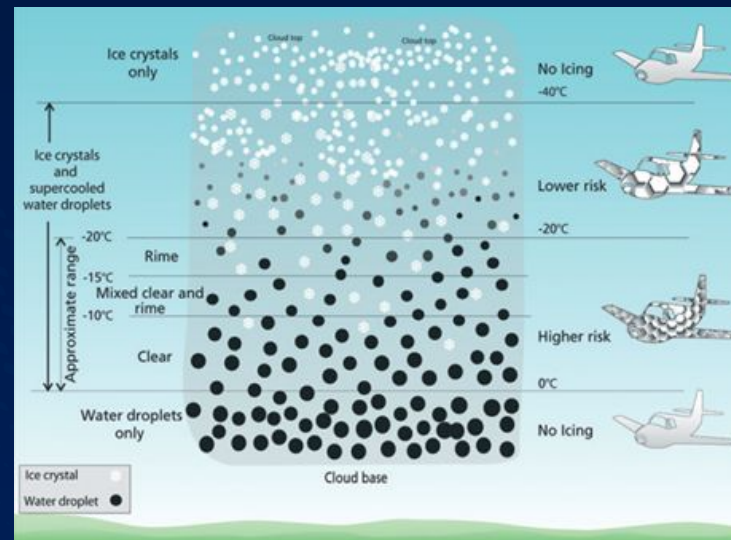


## In high altitude:

- Radiation (x-rays, ultraviolet,...) &
- Charged particles (galactic cosmic rays, auroral particles, solar protons)

## Environment & sustainable drivers for M&P:

- Regulations
- Re-use & recycling
- Critical & Ethical materials
- B2F
- Bio-sourced materials
- LCA
- Eco-efficient ind. processes
- New sustainable technologies
- Sustainable enterprises



2020

Materials contributing to cost reduction and performance increase

2025

Material offering new opportunities by co-designing new products

2030

Material multi-functional, bio-based & digital design & manufactured

>2030

# Introducing ZEROe



## Why Hydrogen?



**Zero emission:** H2 emits no CO2 \* & has the potential to reduce non-CO2 emissions (i.e. NOx) & persistent contrails



**Declining costs:** the cost of producing H2 is likely to decline over the next decade, which will make zero-emission flying increasingly economical



**Energy dense:** H2 is 3x lighter than jet fuel but has a lower volumetric density, thereby requiring a different storage solution on aircraft

Disruptive technologies for:

- Hybrid Electric Regional Aircraft
- Short and Medium-Range Aircraft
- Hydrogen-powered Aircraft



# Thank you for your attention!

Thanks to contributors:  
Frank PALM; David SCHIMBÄCK/Airbus Technology / Munich / Germany





4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on  
Light Materials  
**LightMAT 2021**

**02 - 04 November 2021**  
Virtual Conference

# 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Light Materials - Science and Technology

LightMAT 2021 provides a platform for academic and industrial researchers, scientists and engineers to present and discuss the recent development and progress made in Magnesium, Aluminum, Titanium and their alloys and materials combinations.

**LightMAT 2021 will be held as a Virtual Conference**

**Abstract submission is still possible**

 [Submit Abstract](#)

 [Register for event](#)

  
**180+**  
participants

Participants from  
 **40+**  
countries

  
**130+**  
abstracts

  
**divers**  
participant  
crowd

  
**5+**  
exhibitors

Based on previous LightMAT conference