



POLITECNICO
MILANO 1863

DIPARTIMENTO DI MECCANICA



Politecnico di Milano
Dipartimento di Meccanica
SIGMALab

OVERVIEW AND EXPERTISE

(June 2018)

Structure Impact proGnosis Monitoring MAterial LABoratory



Politecnico di Milano, since 1863



POLITECNICO DI MILANO 1863/2013

150

150° ANNIVERSARIO DEL
POLITECNICO DI MILANO

Il Politecnico celebra il suo 150° con un intero anno di eventi, seminari e convegni, spettacoli teatrali, mostre, laboratori, lezioni e incontri a tema con la partecipazione di prestigiose istituzioni culturali milanesi.



DIPARTIMENTO DI MECCANICA

SIGMALab

Faculty & Students AY 2015/2016

Architecture

Professors & Researchers

297

Students

6,957

Design

Professors & Researchers

94

Students

3,542

Engineering

Professors & Researchers

925

Students

27,485

Professors and
Assistant
Professors



1,316

Technical and
Administrative
staff



1,207

PhD students

1,011

Students



37,984

International students coming from more than 100 countries

- ✓ **1513 at BSc (6%)**
- ✓ **2102 at MSc (23%)**
- ✓ **312 Ph.D. (29%)**



Specializing Master and Short post-graduation courses

- ✓ **More than 2500 students (20% from foreign countries)**

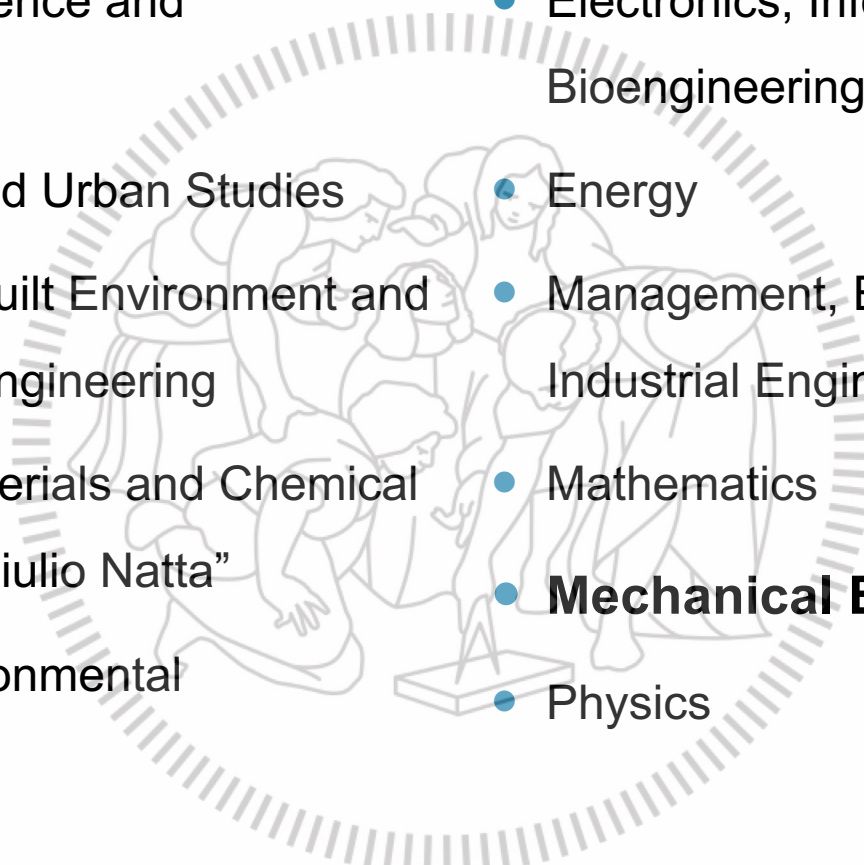
QS World University Rankings by Subject 2016

	World	EU	Italy
Engineering & Technology	24	7	1
Architecture & Built Environment	15	6	1
Art & Design	10	3	1
Computer Science & Information Systems	43	9	1
Chemical Engineering	51	11	1
Civil & Structural Engineering	14	5	1
Electrical & Electronic Engineering	44	11	2
Mechanical, Aeronautical & Manufacturing Engineering	18	6	1
Materials Sciences	51	12	1
Mathematics	51	14	1
Business & Management Studies	51	15	2
Physics & Astronomy	51	20	2

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Computer Science & Information Systems	43	9	1
Chemical Engineering	51	11	1
Civil & Structural Engineering	14	5	1
Electrical & Electronic Engineering	44	11	2
Mechanical, Aeronautical & Manufacturing Engineering (2018)	17	5	1
Materials Sciences	51	12	1
Mathematics	51	14	1
Business & Management Studies	51	15	2
Physics & Astronomy	51	20	2

The 12 Departments of the Politecnico di Milano

- 
- Aerospace Science and Technology
 - Architecture and Urban Studies
 - Architecture, Built Environment and Construction Engineering
 - Chemistry, Materials and Chemical Engineering “Giulio Natta”
 - Civil and Environmental Engineering
 - Design
 - Electronics, Information and Bioengineering
 - Energy
 - Management, Economics and Industrial Engineering
 - Mathematics
 - **Mechanical Engineering**
 - Physics

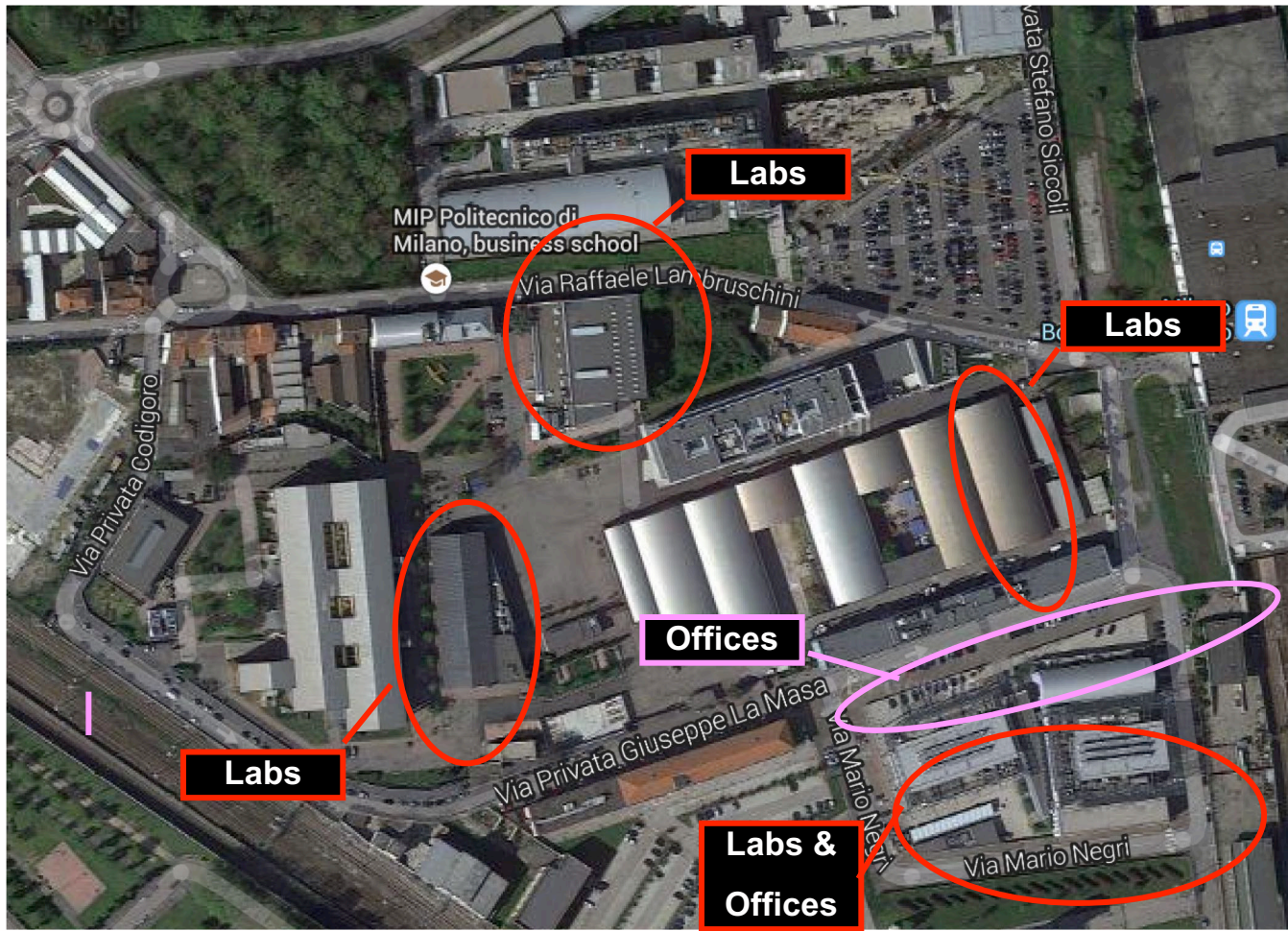
Department of Mechanical engineering: people



Mission Statement

With its large-scale state-of-the-art technological infrastructure and research facilities, broad theoretical, methodological and technological knowledge, international reputation and successful alumni, the overall mission of the Department of Mechanical Engineering is to deliver **world-class research and education in Mechanical Engineering, with particular regard to their application in industry.**

Department of Mechanical engineering: Milano-Bovisa Campus (since 1998)



Department of Mechanical engineering: offices and laboratories

Two new buildings at the Bovisa Campus:

- the first was inaugurated in December 2007 and hosts offices and labs;
- the second was inaugurated in July 2014 and hosts offices. Both are in Via La Masa.



	Offices [m ²]	Labs [m ²]
Campus Bovisa South	3127	3167
Campus Bovisa East (LaST Labs)	60	1960
Lecco Campus	200	470
Piacenza Campus and MUSP Labs		1300
Total	4325	8037

Average laboratory area of 80 m²/researcher

Department of Mechanical engineering: laboratories

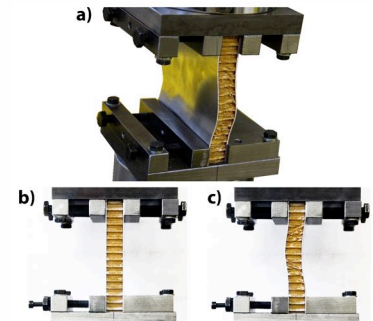
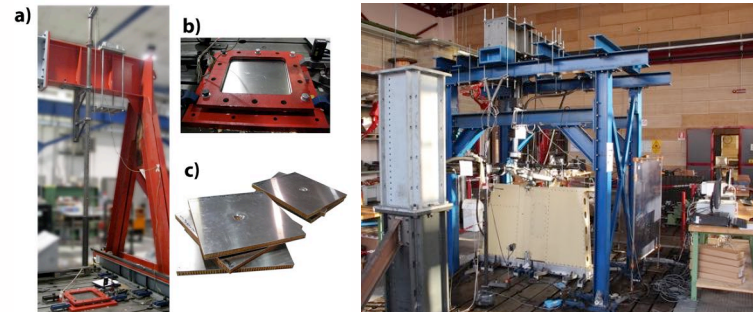
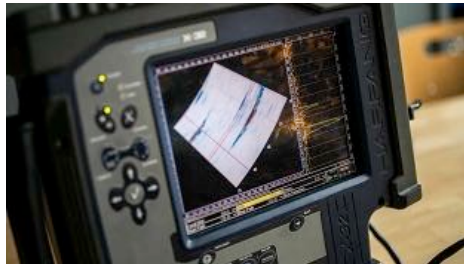
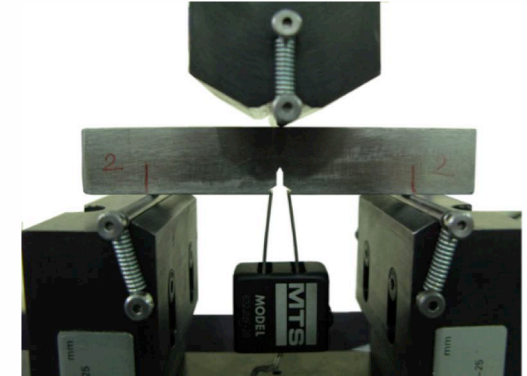
Wind tunnel



Structures Facility



Material Facility

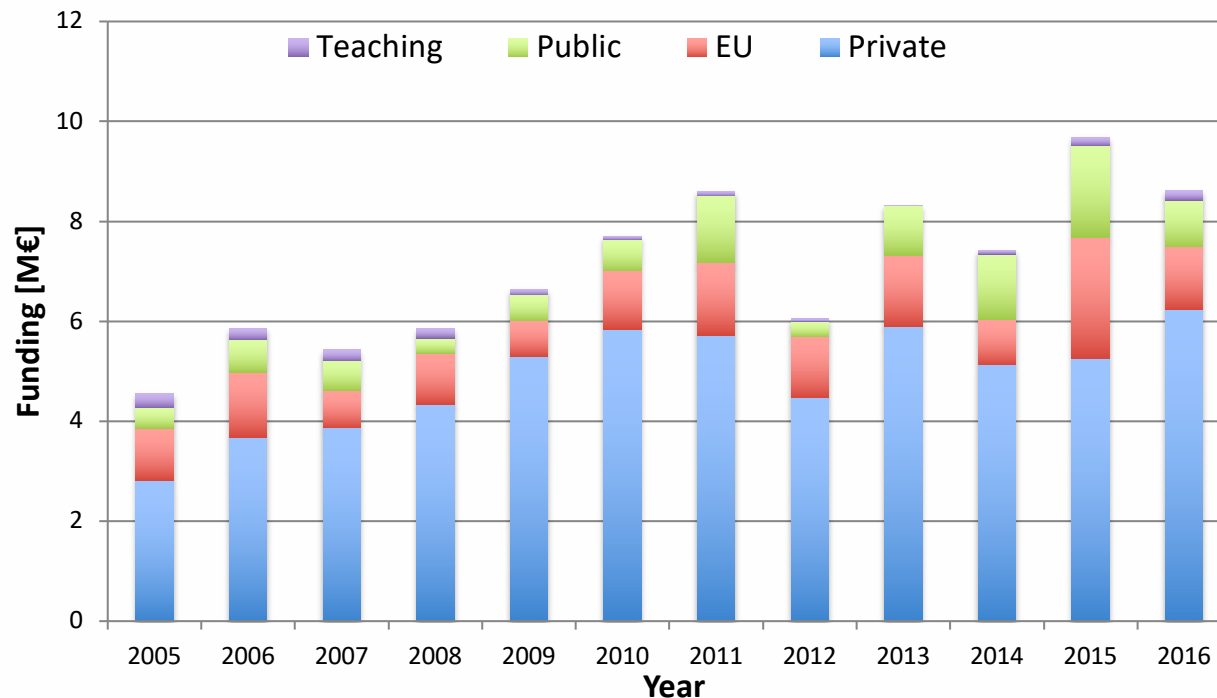


- Laboratory of Mechanical Department allow tests of specimens, components up to full scale large/complex systems
- Expertise in certification tests (FAA)

Department of Mechanical engineering: fundings

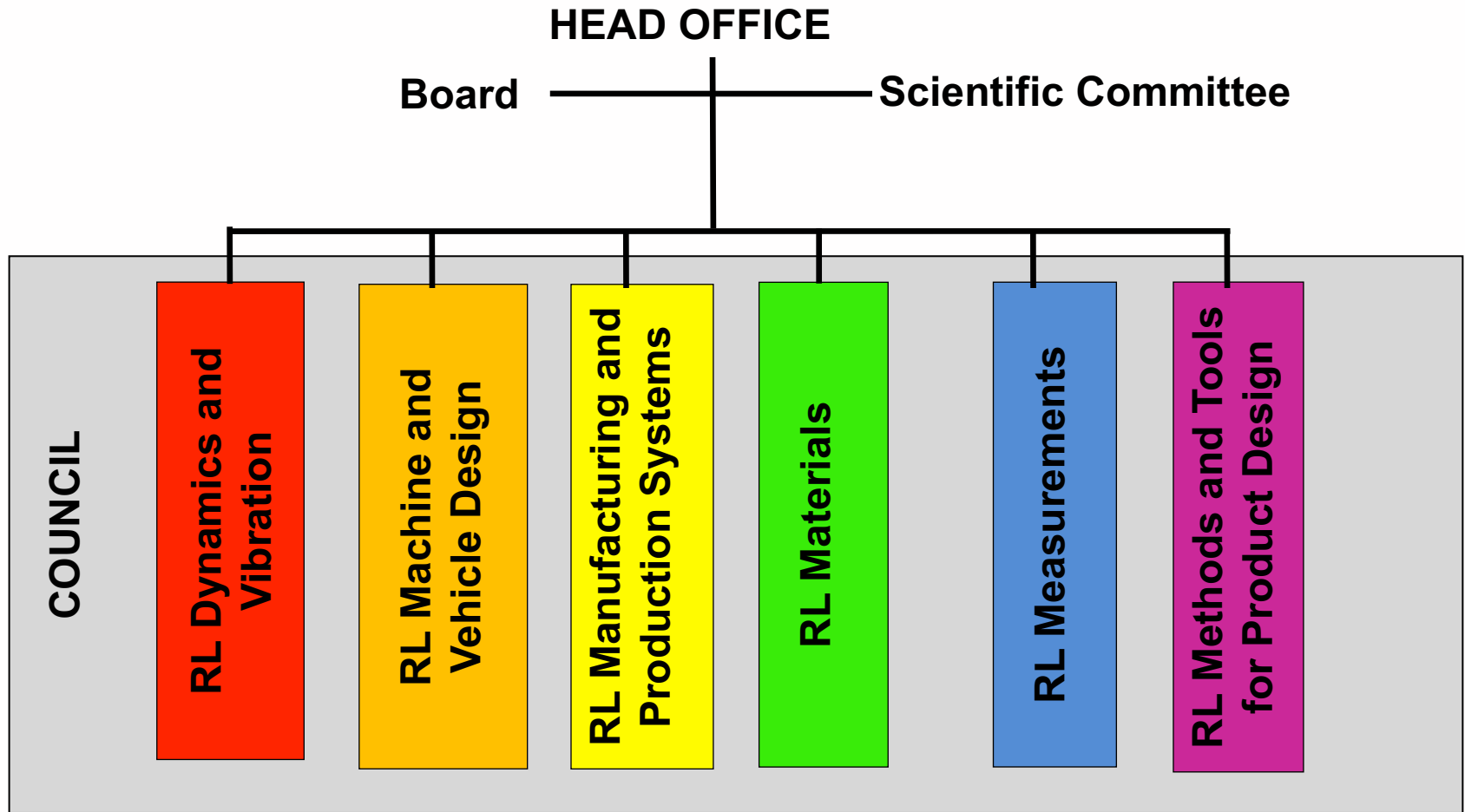
Research funding has reached about 100 k€/researcher (105 people permanent staff).

Most of the research funding comes from private partners. Other funding comes from the European Union and the Italian Ministry.



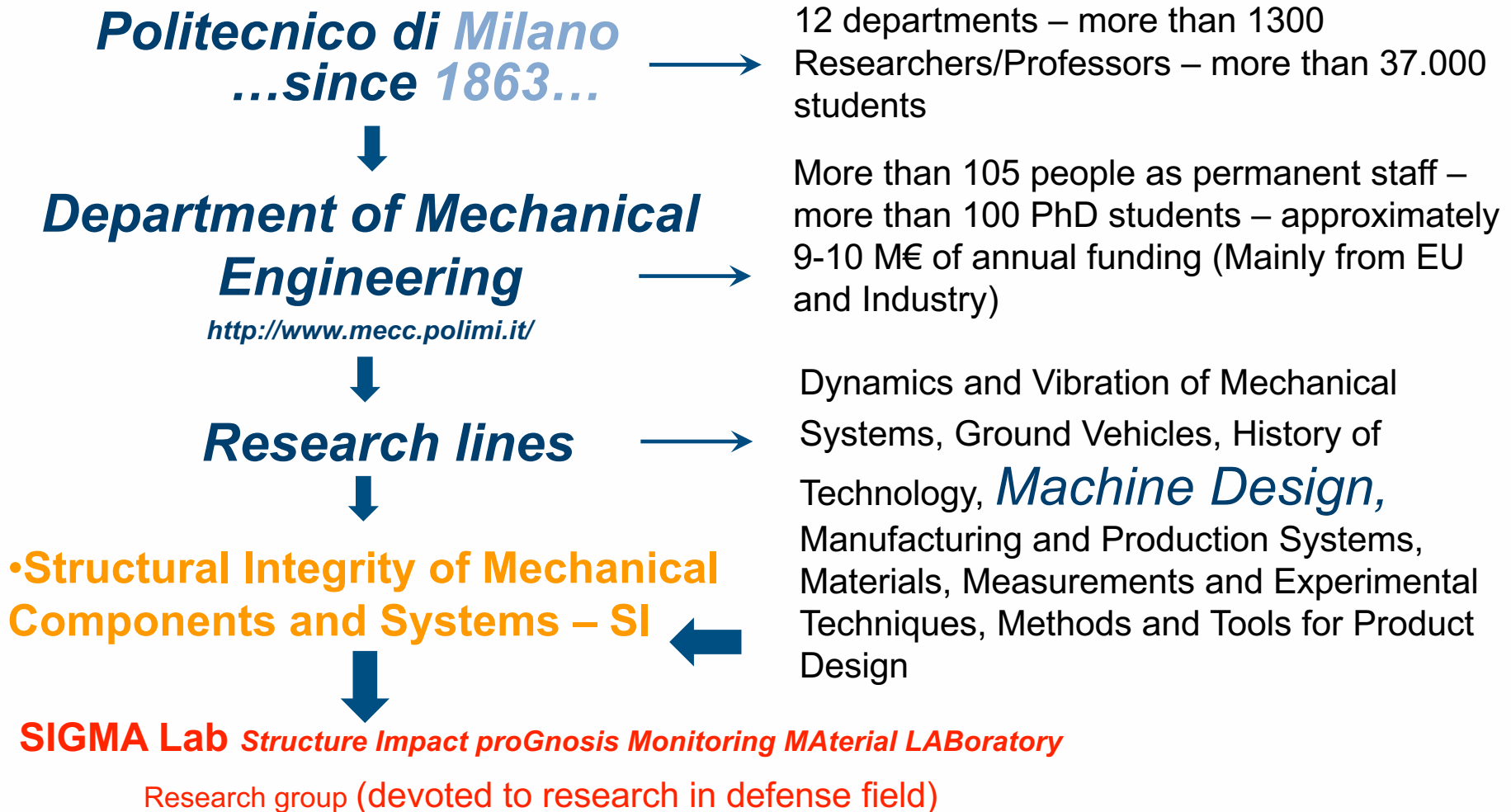
- ✓ 18 EU-funded projects currently active
- ✓ 11 new EU projects started in 2015
- ✓ 5 new EU projects started in 2016 (September)
- ✓ 21 EU projects started in the last 4 years (Jan 2013-Sept.2016)

Department of Mechanical engineering: research lines



Our research team inside Politecnico di Milano

SIGMALab, <http://www.giglio.faculty.polimi.it>



SIGMALab: People

Team Leader

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Research Fellow

Demetrio CRISTIANI

Research Fellow

Alessio BELIGNI

Ph.D. graduate student

Stefano CARDAMONE

Ph.D. graduate student

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Reliability and statistical approaches for structural integrity

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Ph.D. graduate student

Simone LOMBARDO

Ph.D. graduate student

Dayou MA

Ph.D. graduate student

Our mission:

Main aim of the research team is an advanced engineering approach for the **assessment, new design and optimization of mechanical and aerospace components**. Research activities and topics concern with several aspects related to:

- **assessment and optimization** of components under spectrum loads and extreme loads (ballistic damage, etc.);
- **monitoring, diagnosis and prognosis** of critical structures subject to degradation, under fatigue loads and impact loads;
- **application of novel probabilistic approaches** in structural integrity design (flaw tolerant approach, reliability methods, vulnerability, etc.).

Experimental investigations and numerical-analytical investigation allow to individuate models able to simulate components under contingent-extreme loads in order to optimize their behavior.

SIGMALab: outlook of the research team

Our vision: a reference team for tailored assessment of critical components under extreme conditions

More that 15 years of challenging research activities with academic and industrial partners and customers (included security and defense).



SIGMALab: research Areas

SIGMALab is active in several research topics related to defense field, but conventionally we have created two main research programmes. Each area develops original and advanced technology platforms at the state of the art in order to deliver the best solutions for challenging problems. The areas merge in several activities.

Structural integrity under extreme load

- Large deformation and failure, ballistic and low velocity impact, explosion, crack and damage, delamination, etc
- Definition of optimal protection
- Material calibration exploiting innovative constitutive law
- Numerical modelling (FEM, DEM, meshless, etc)
- Analytical modelling
- Experimental testing (from micro to full scale)

Model-based Structural Health Monitoring and prognosis

- Investigation of different state of art sensor technologies for SHM
- Numerical and analytical modelling for SHM system training
- Machine learning and pattern recognition for diagnosis
- Bayesian filters and Monte-Carlo methods for prognosis
- Experimental SHM verification and performance qualification

New entries for SIGMALab research topic

Energy

- SIGMALab team is working in order to provide dedicated solutions both for O&G and renewable energy (explorative drilling and innovative solar troughs).

Reliability and statistical approaches for structural integrity

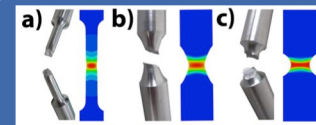
- Numerical and analytical modeling
- Machine learning and pattern recognition for cheap approximation of complex FEM responses
- Monte-Carlo simulation schemes for uncertainty effects quantification
- Advanced optimization schemes (evolutionary algorithms, etc.)

Structural integrity under extreme load

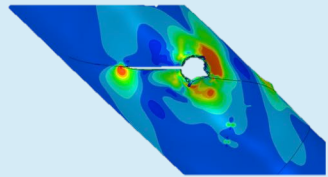
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Outlook of the framework: a fit for purpose / multidisciplinary technology platform

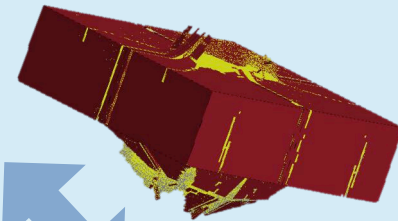
A deep investigation both in practical aspects and state of the art



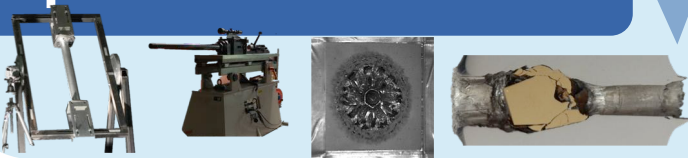
Material calibration



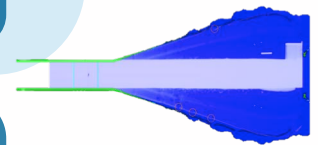
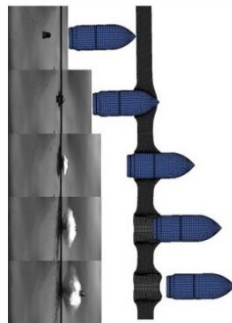
Numerical and analytical modelling / algorithm



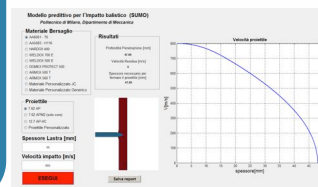
Experimental Tests



Validation of the modelling / algorithm approaches



Definition of predictive models/methods
Design optimisation
Structural Health Monitoring (monitoring, diagnosis and prognosis)
Fitness for purpose

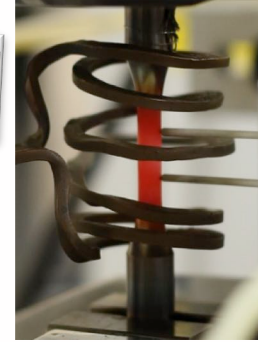


Outlook of the framework: a fit for purpose / multidisciplinary technology platform

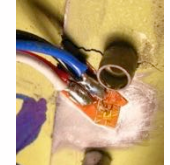
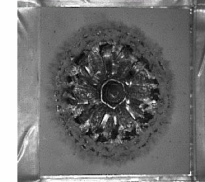
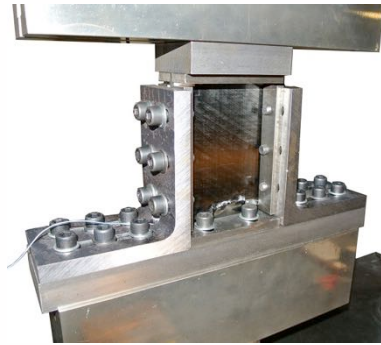
Experimental Tests

Test on **coupon and small specimens** to determine mechanical behavior

Metal Composite and Ceramic: plasticity, damage - Access to fully equipped materials lab including: quasi-static tension, compression and torsion testing at different temperatures, hardness measurements, fatigue testing, optical microscopy, scanning electron microscopes with coupled EDS and EBSD probes, X-ray diffractometer, CT scan, HIP - test under quality system



Test on **subsystem** also in presence of extreme loading condition



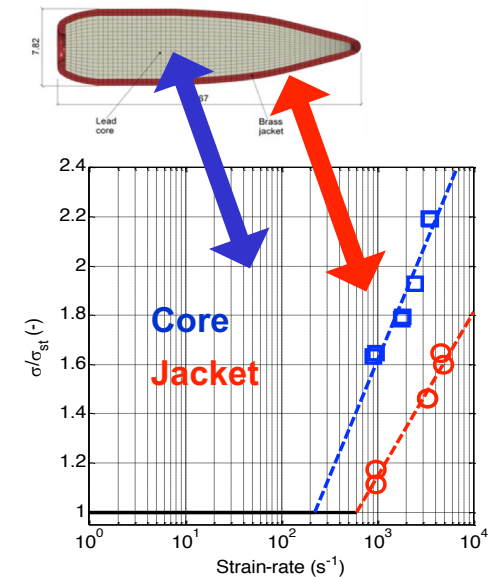
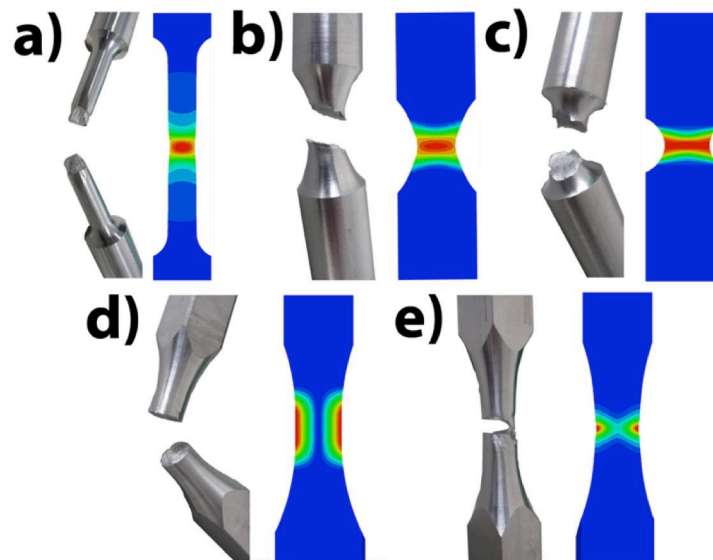
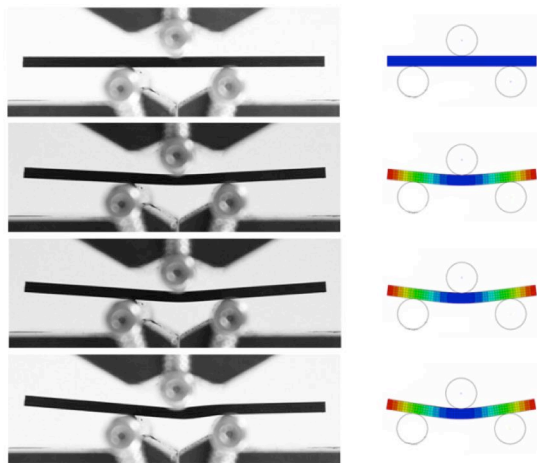
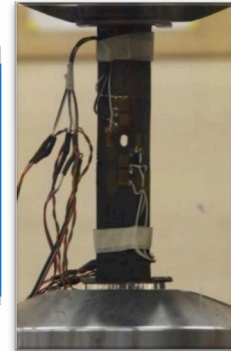
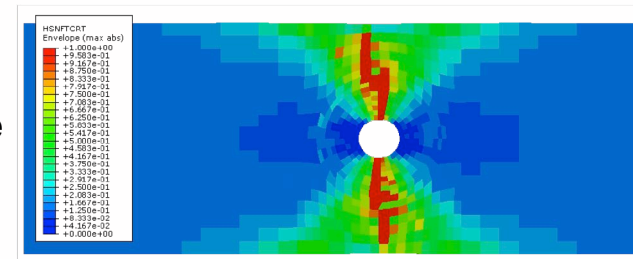
Test on **full-scale components** even for certification purpose



Outlook of the framework: a fit for purpose / multidisciplinary technology platform

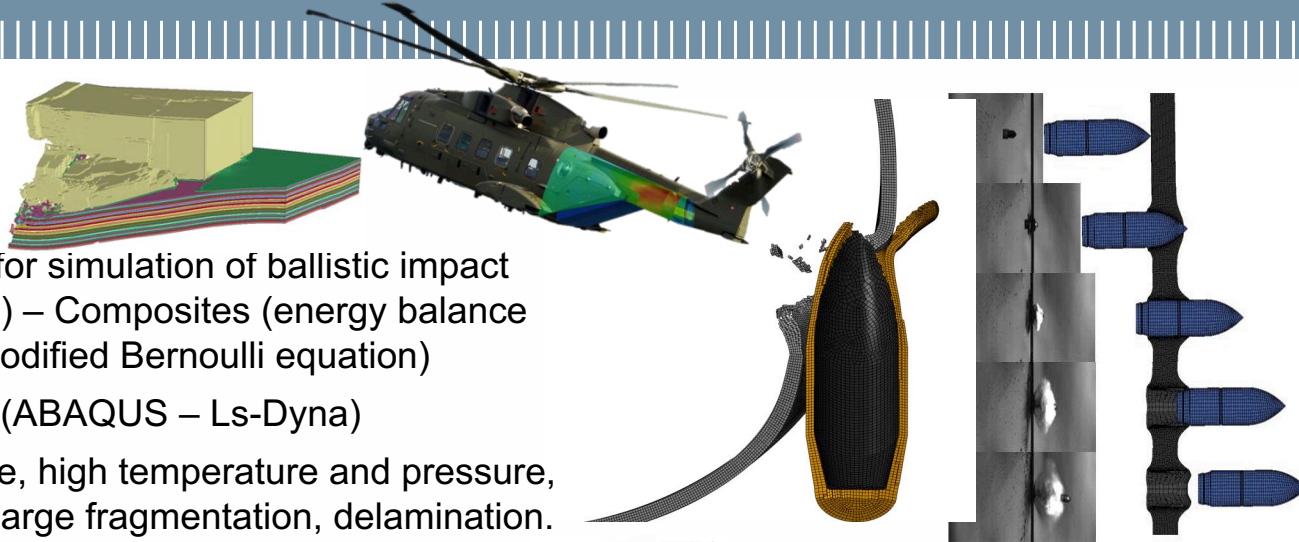
Material calibration

- Material behaviour: focus on **metal - ceramic – composite**
- Inverse methods for **calibration** of mechanical properties
- Definition of **constitutive models** able to describe high plasticity, ductile/brittle failure, strain rate, delamination, etc
- Creation of ad-hoc routine

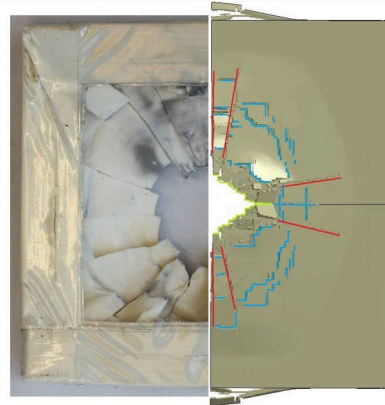
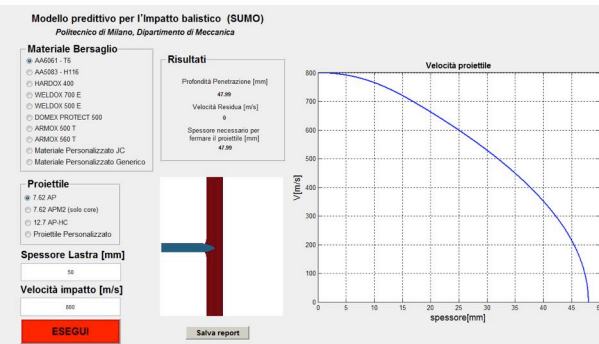
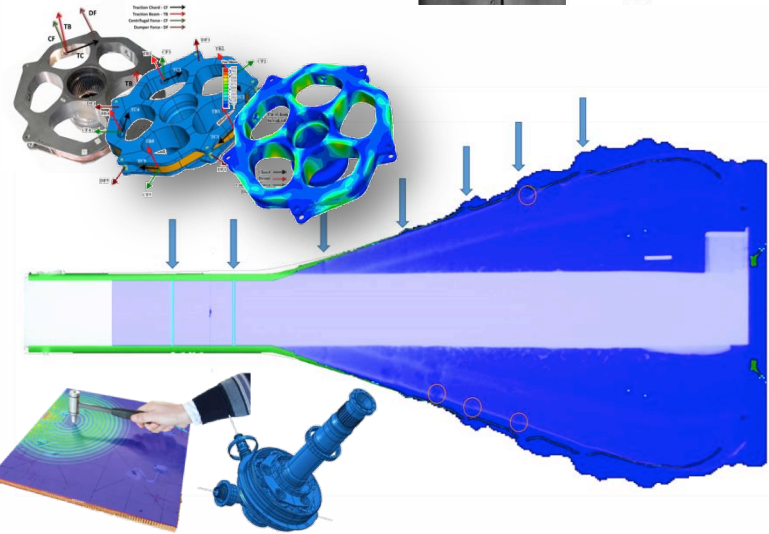


Outlook of the framework: a fit for purpose / multidisciplinary technology platform

Modelling



- Creation of **analytical models** for simulation of ballistic impact against Metal (cavity expansion) – Composites (energy balance and wave theory) – Ceramic (modified Bernoulli equation)
- Creation of **numerical models** (ABAQUS – Ls-Dyna)
 - ✓ large plasticity, high strain rate, high temperature and pressure, fracture and damage criteria, large fragmentation, delamination.
 - ✓ Lagrangian, ALE, SPH, peridynamics and in general expertise in mesh-free methods and coupling with lagrangian element.



The role of “Virtual test” in the design and assessment of innovative products aimed to defense system

Requirement:

Performances as a function of treats and operational conditions

TEP Includes Modular Scalable Vest, Ballistic Combat Shirt, Blast Pelvic Protector and Load Distribution System



Design and optimization

- Experience (*not always reliable*)
- Experimental testing (*time consuming and costly*)

Virtual test

- Predictive models
- Virtual tests
- **Reducing costs / uncertainties / development time**
- **Increasing fitness for purposes**
- **Optimization**

Validation

Certification, assessment of the fitnesses for purpose ???

Possible unfitting that require another interaction with the design phase

More direct progress toward a fitted and reliable product

Final product



Outlook of the research activities: from actual requirements to R&D

Efforts have been spent in this field starting from three actual tasks:


- Assessment of the residual life and strength of helicopter T/R shafts after ballistic perforation (thin walled structure – aeronautical components): **Ballistic damage tolerance tests on the NH90-T129A tail rotor shafts**
- Evaluation of an optimized procedure for prediction of low caliber bullet penetration in thick armor plate (ground vehicle, civil structure, etc.): **SUMO**



 **LEONARDO**



25 mm

 SUMO - P.N.R.M. (Italian National Project for Military Research), completed in 2013:

SvilUpo di un MOdello predittivo per l'impatto balistico

Development of a predictive model for ballistic impact

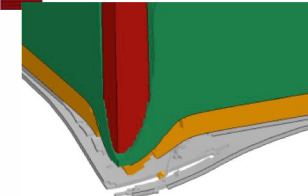
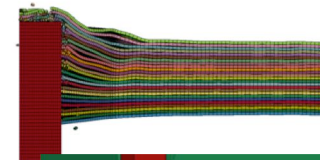


- Investigation in modeling low caliber bullet penetration in multilayer armor (composite – ceramic - metal): **SUMO 2**

 SUMO2. P.N.R.M. (Italian National Project for Military Research), work in progress:

SvilUpo di una Metodologia analitica, numerica e sperimentale per la progettazione di protezioni balistiche cOmposite multistrato.

Development of a predictive model for multilayer protection



Project: ISSA



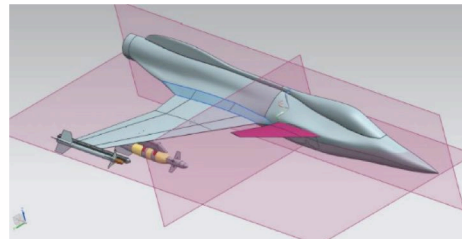
European Defence Agency Tendering procedure, Ad Hoc Research & Technology Project, No B 1190 ESM2 GP "Integrated Simulation of Non-Linear Aero-Structural Phenomena Arising On Combat Aircraft In Transonic Flight", ISSA 2013-2016



The scope of ISSA is to create an environment of validated linear and high-fidelity analytical methods and tools for the investigation of LCO, mainly focusing on fighter external store configurations flying in transonic conditions.

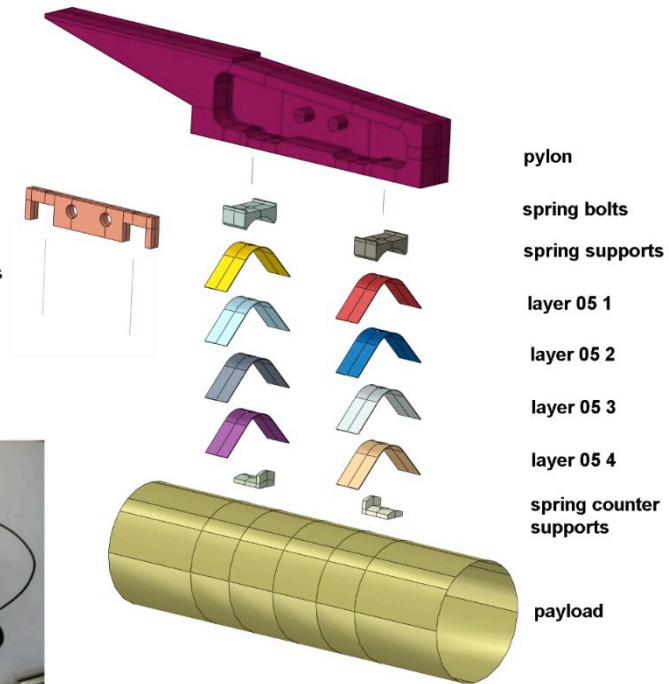
- Develop high-fidelity methods for the simulation of LCO, based on the coupling of CFD/CSM models that include aerodynamic and structural non-linearity;
- Develop methods for the linearization of the phenomenon and the application of linear tools currently in use to industry, corrected using the results of high-fidelity simulation;
- Upgrade an existing aeroelastic wind tunnel model with the addition of parametric pylon-store systems, designed to investigate LCO phenomena in the wind tunnel;

POLIMI contribution is mainly related to non-linear structural analyses and linearization methodology



load cell support

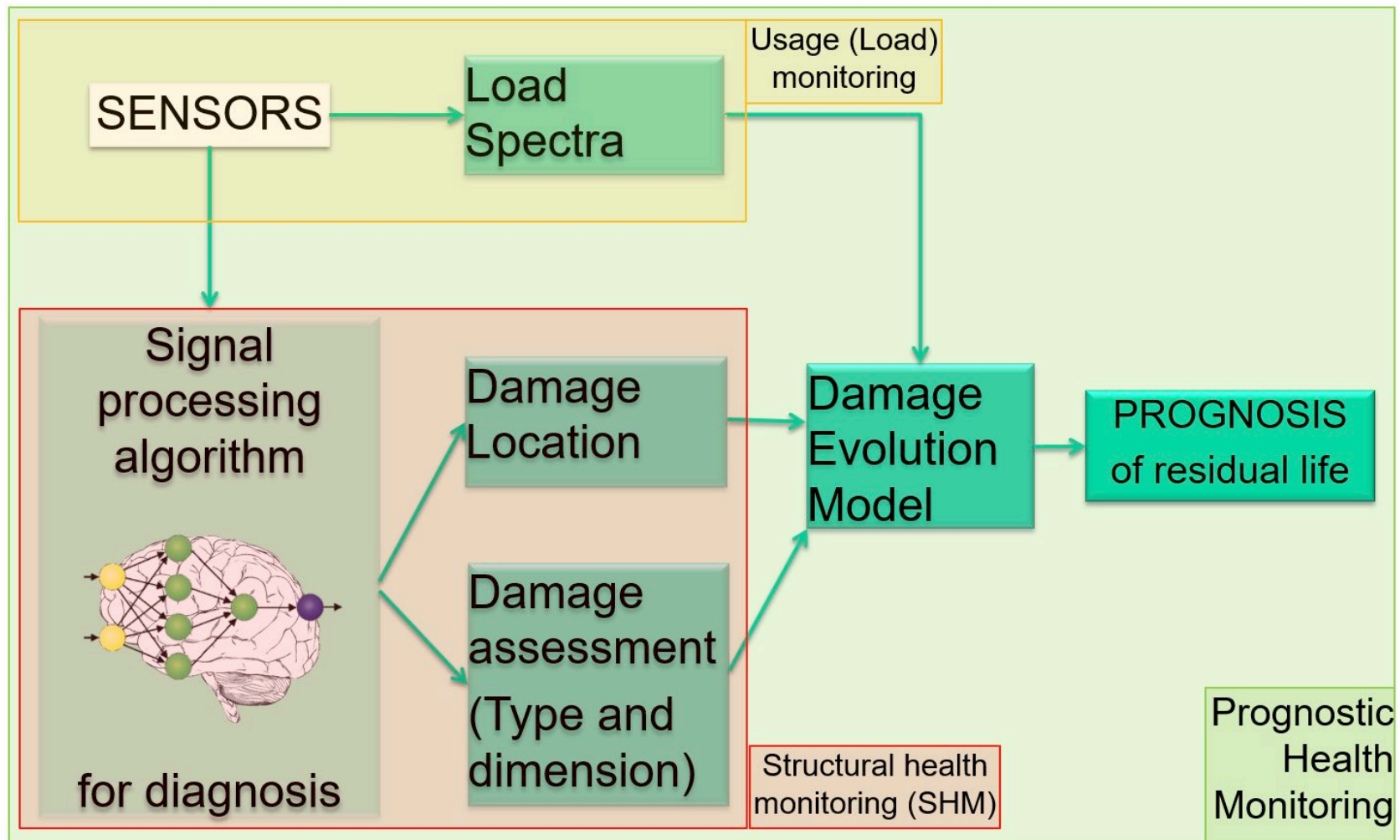
preload bars



Model-based Structural Health and Usage Monitoring (HUMS) and prognosis

- Investigation of different state of art sensor technologies for SHM
- Numerical and analytical modelling for SHM system training
- Machine learning and pattern recognition for diagnosis
- Bayesian filters and Monte-Carlo methods for prognosis
- Experimental SHM verification and performance qualification

What HUMS and Prognosis means?



What do we need?

Sensors provide a signal dependent on damage that has to be interpreted.



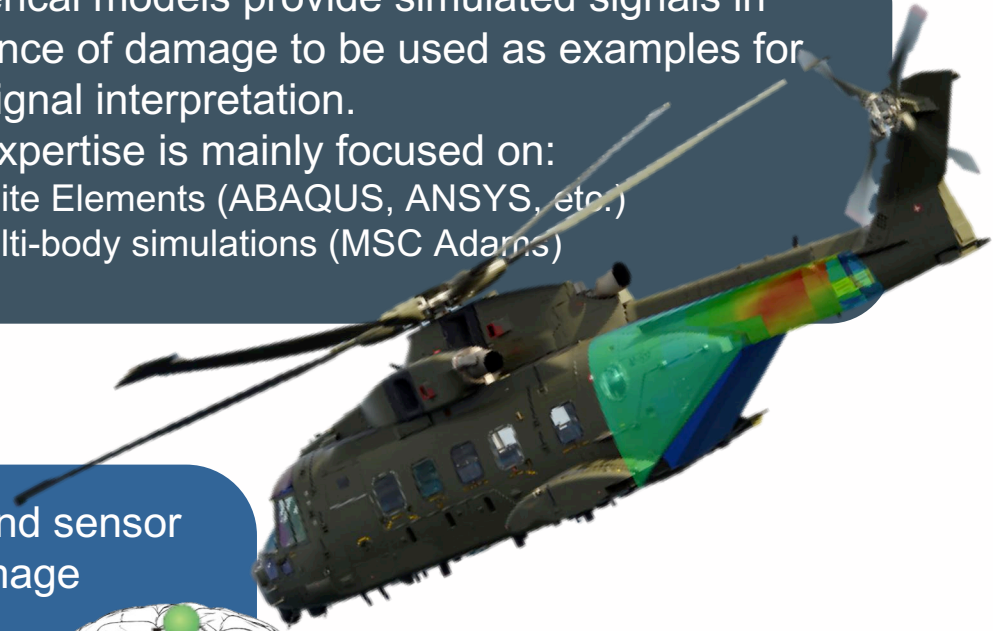
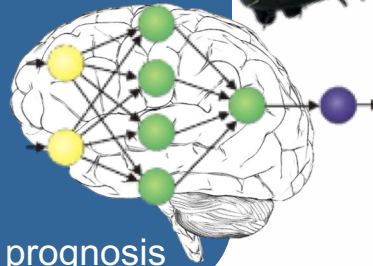
Numerical models provide simulated signals in presence of damage to be used as examples for real signal interpretation.

Our expertise is mainly focused on:

- Finite Elements (ABAQUS, ANSYS, etc.)
- Multi-body simulations (MSC Adams)

Signal processing tools combine numerical and sensor data to provide feature classification and damage diagnosis. Our expertise is focused on:

- Feature extraction
- Supervised machine learning for diagnosis
- Statistical model-based filtering for diagnosis and prognosis



Outlook of the research activities: monitoring causes and consequences of damage

Load monitoring systems

Which is the actual structural ageing, under operative loads?
Did any extreme event occur?



- Strain at virtual nodes
- External load identification
- Impact position, energy and damage

Structural health monitoring (SHM) systems

Is there any damage propagating?



- Damage detection
- Damage position
- Damage length

Prognostics and Health Management (PHM) systems

Which is the expected residual life?



- Stochastic residual life definition
- Uncertainty updating

The SENSORS:

Network optimisation for structural anomaly detection

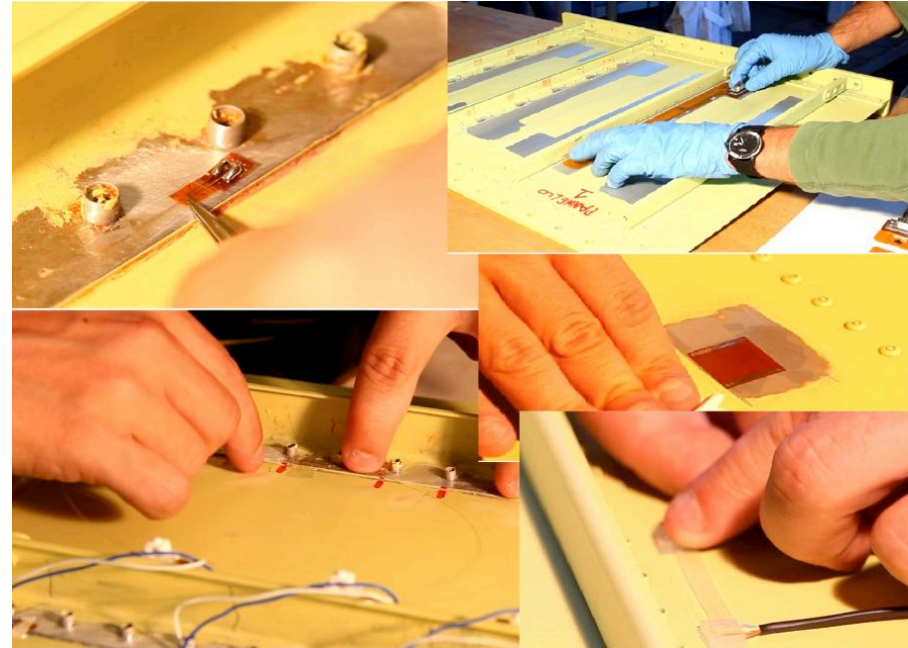
Various state of the art sensor technologies have been tested for HUMS, including:

Electrical sensors:

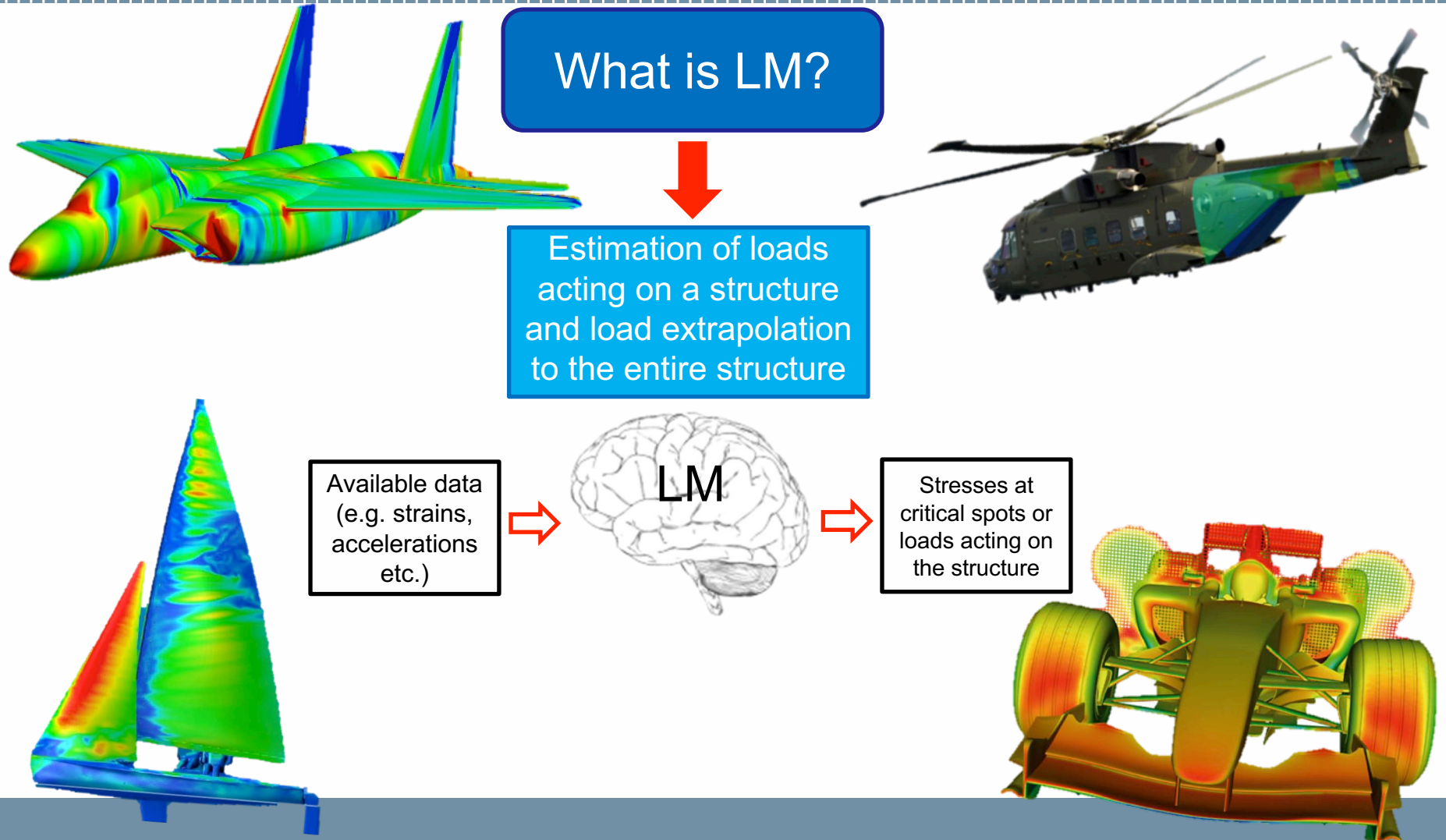
- strain gauges
- crack gauges
- piezoelectric actuators and sensors
- acoustic emission sensors, etc.
- Embedded Carbon-Nanotubes

Non-electrical sensors:

- Optical fibre Bragg grating
- Interferometric fiber optic sensor (Michelson)
- Comparative vacuum monitoring, etc.



Load monitoring

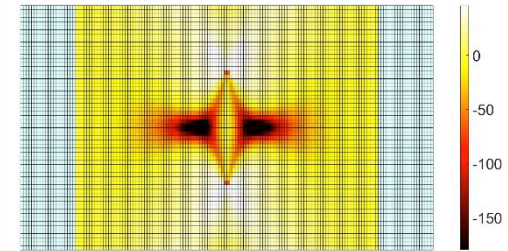
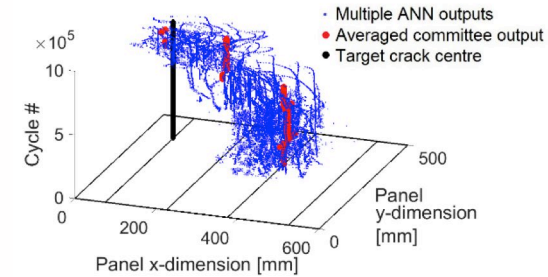
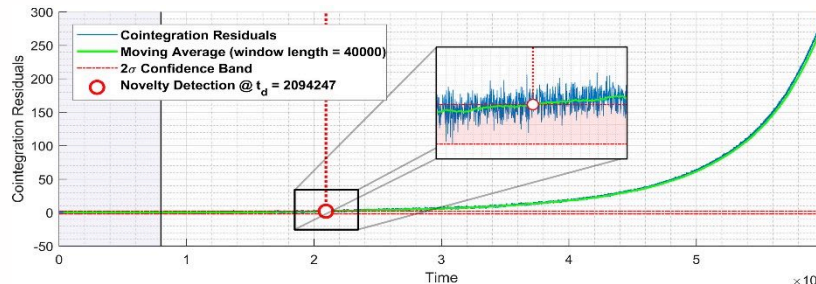


Damage diagnosis

Machine learning for fast and real-time SURROGATE modelling

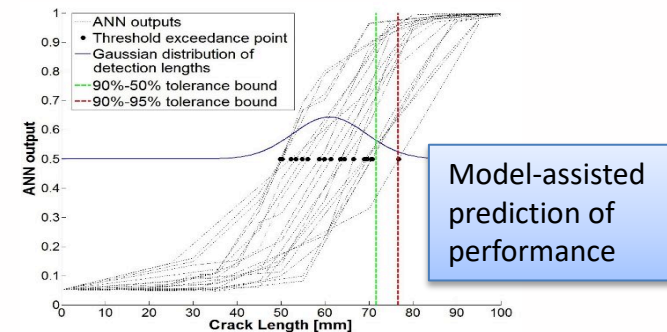
Data Normalisation for removal of environmental and operational influences

- Regression
- Data Projection
- Cointegration
- iFEM



Enhanced model-based framework, leveraging on analytical and numerical modeling for:

- Sensitivity analysis and feature extraction
- Sensor network design
- Diagnostic algorithm training
- Surrogate model training
- Model-assisted performance qualification



Damage prognosis

Problem statement

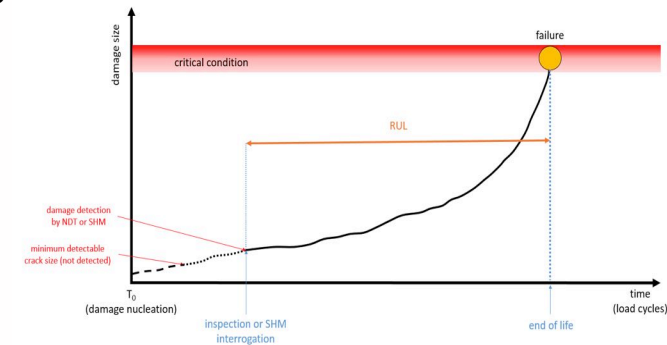
Performing the **prognosis** of a system subject to degradation means calculating the **residual life** according to all the observations gained from:

- Prior experience
- Actual observations of the damage available in real-time by a SHM system
- Actual observations of the loads measured by the load monitoring system

This has to be done in a probabilistic way. **Sequential Monte-Carlo** algorithms allow for the definition of a stochastic framework in which it is possible to:

- Refine the uncertainty on the measure of the damage
- Refine the uncertainty on the parameters governing the damage evolution
- Decide which is the best model to describe the system dynamics
- Update the residual life probability density function

The algorithm works in **REAL-TIME**



Damage prognosis

Problem statement

A solution: Sequential Monte-Carlo (Particle Filter)

State Estimation

Filtering of the diagnostic output dispersion

Model Parameter Estimation

Filtering of the model parameter distribution

Adapt the filtered output to a generic load spectrum

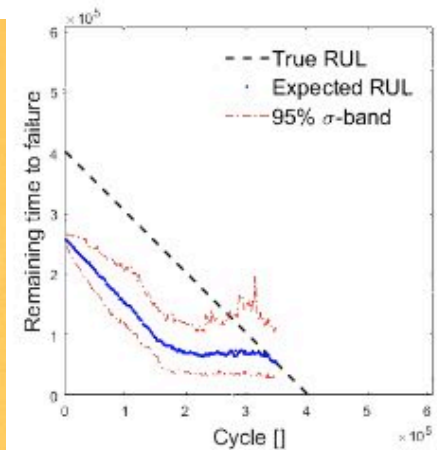
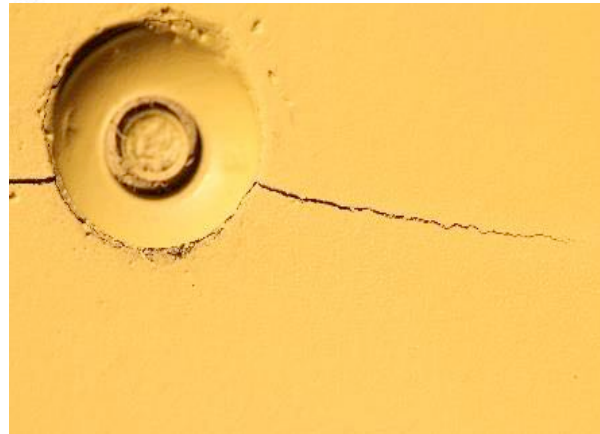
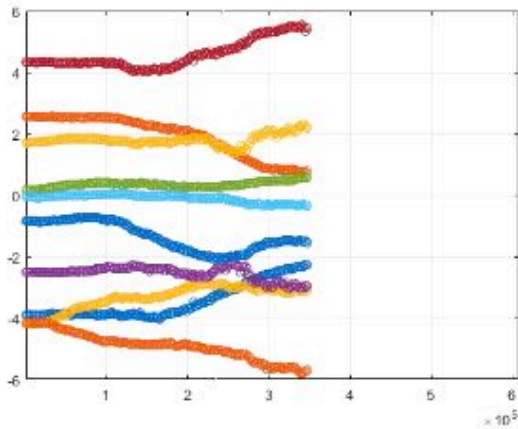
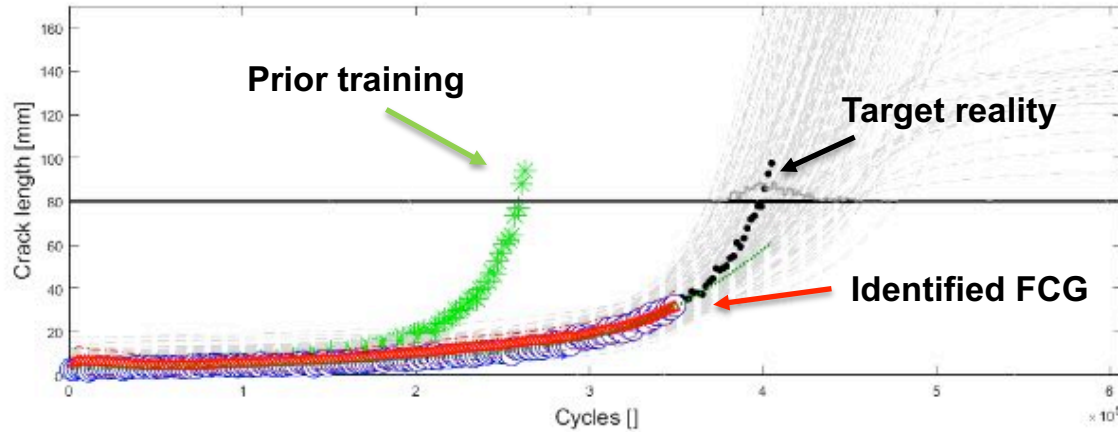
Model Identification

Which model better predicts our sequential data?

PROGNOSIS

Damage prognosis

Example results in Fatigue Crack growth identification



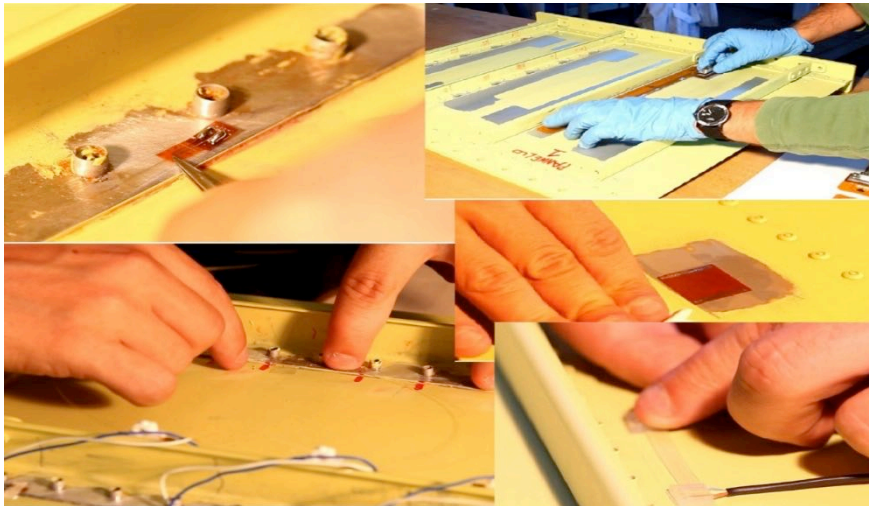
Project: HECTOR



European Defence Agency Joint Investment Programme on Innovative Concepts and Emerging Technologies (JIP-ICET), Call N. 1, Ref. A-0779-RT-GC: "Monitoring and control", "Helicopter fuselage Crack monitoring and prognosis through on-board sensors" - HECTOR, 2009-2011



SHM methodology to monitor on-line the damage accumulation and propagation during service (diagnosis) and to evaluate the time inspections and remaining life (prognosis) in helicopter frames



Fatigue tests of pre-cracked metallic panels representative of rear helicopter fuselage for **Structural Health Monitoring**: Complete test design and set-up, design and manufacturing of the test rig, assessment of several sensors technologies (strain gauges, fiber Bragg gratings, CVM, crack gauges, PZT smart layer) for **automated damage identification**



Project: HECTOR



European Defence Agency Joint Investment Programme on Innovative Concepts and Emerging Technologies (JIP-ICET), Call N. 1, Ref. A-0779-RT-GC: "Monitoring and control", "Helicopter fuselage Crack monitoring and prognosis through on-board sensor" - HECTOR, 2009-2011



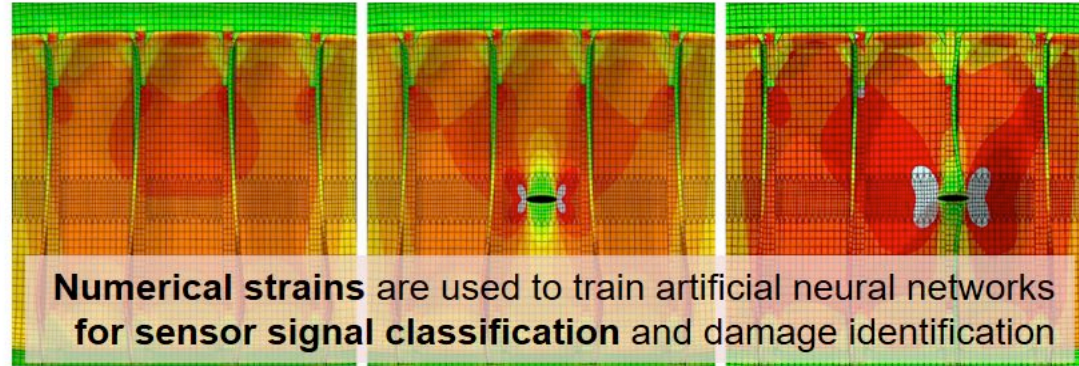
Diagnostic system based on strain field measures (FBGs) for damage identification, localisation and quantification

Skin crack, rivet crack and stringer failure have been identified on a stiffened panel representative of the rear-fuselage of a medium weight helicopter

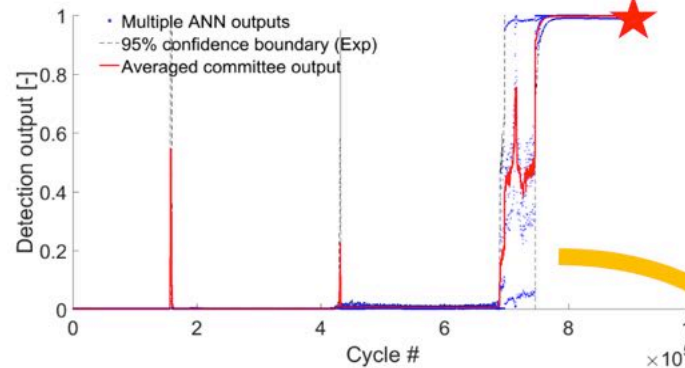


PANNELLO

Skin crack



Numerical strains are used to train artificial neural networks for sensor signal classification and damage identification



Real unexpected stringer failure detected and localized 200.000 cycles before failure



Rivet crack



Stringer failure

Project: ASTYANAX



European Defence Agency Tendering procedure, Ad Hoc Research & Technology Project, No B 1288 ESM2 GP, "Aircraft fuSelage crack monIToring sYstem And progNosis through on-boArd eXpert sensor network" - ASTYANAX, 2012-2015



ASTYANAX project pushes the HECTOR SHM methodology to a higher TRL by its application to relevant full-scale experimental tests:

- Helicopter HARSH LANDING assessment
- Real-time automated diagnosis of a helicopter tail-boom
- Cost-Benefit analysis of the SHM implementation on a realistic helicopter fleet





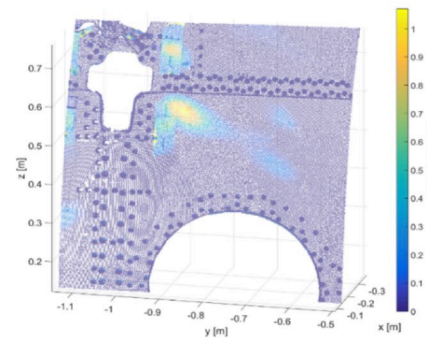
HARSH LANDING assessment. Numerical models are used:

- (i) to predict the signal features for automated harsh landing classification
- (ii) to predict damage as a function of the landing parameters

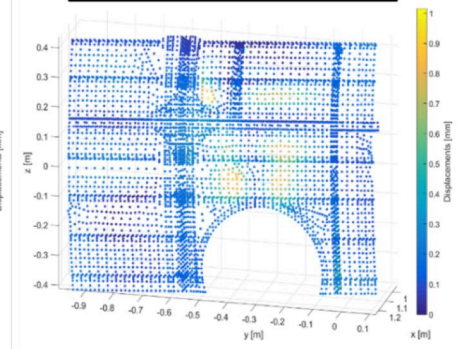
- Participation to design and execution of drop tests
- Sensor network design and acquisition
- Numerical modelling
- Algorithm for automated harsh landing classification



Drop from 75cm - Experimental



Drop from 75cm - Numerical

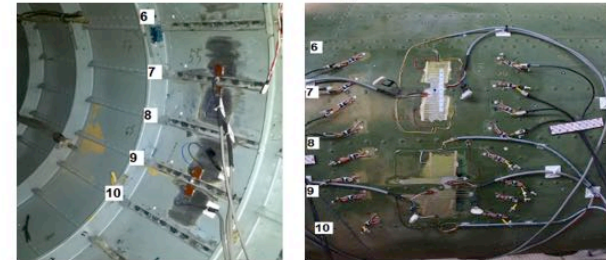




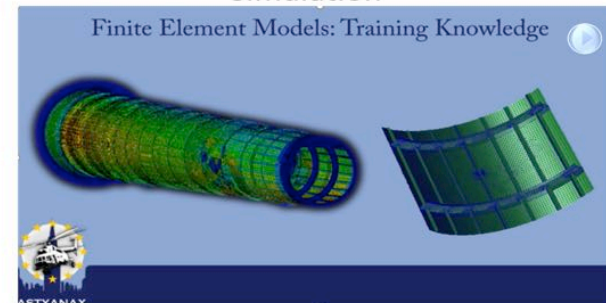
Real-time automated diagnosis of a helicopter tail-boom.

- (i) FULL-SCALE design and setup of fatigue test on a Mil-Mi-17 helicopter tail-boom.
- (ii) Sensor network design, installation and acquisition
- (iii) Qualification of SHM system performances (minimum detectable crack length – ARP6461)
- (iv) Cost-benefit analysis

Sensing



Simulation



Test





The focus is on composite structures

The main streams of activity are:

- Numerically-enhanced load monitoring system for real time estimation of fatigue consumption
- Impact monitoring system for impact assessment (detection, localisation and impact energy assessment) and model-based damage estimation.
- SHM guidelines for SHM qualification, standardization and certification
- Cost Benefit Analysis and Life Cycle Costs
- Application to ground and flight platform (RPAS)



HECTOR (Completed December 2011):

HELicopter fuselage Crack monitoring system and prognosis through on-board sensor network

TRL 3-4

ASTYANAX (Completed December 2015):

Aircraft fuselage crack monitoring system and prognosis through on-board expert sensor network

TRL 4-5

SAMAS (Start December 2017):

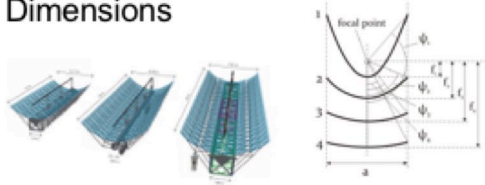
SHM Application to unManned Aircraft Systems

TRL 5-6

Design of an innovative Solar Through

DESIGN AND TECNICAL SOLUTIONS (Manufacturing costs, materials and design solutions)

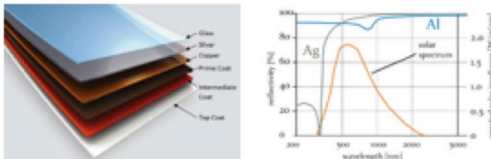
Dimensions



Design solutions and materials



Mirrors

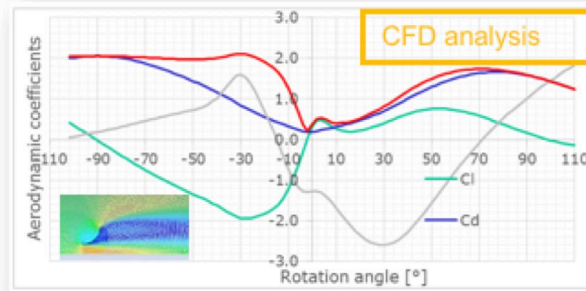


Receiver



FINAL OPTIMIZED DESIGN

LOADS (CFD) and EFFICIENCY CALCULATION under work loads (FE and analytical)

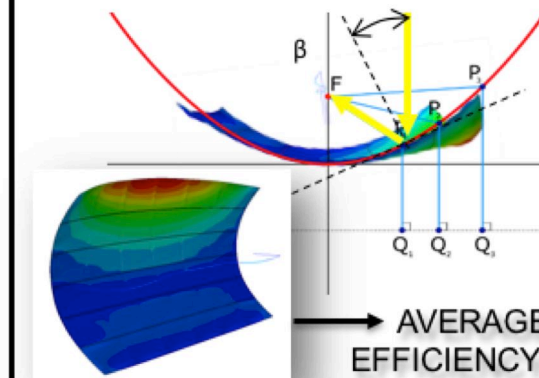


Pressure field

High speed wind and low speed wind pressure field

Low speed wind pressure field

FE model – mirror deformation under normal operational speed wind.



AVERAGE EFFICIENCY [%]

STRUCTURAL OPTIMIZATION AND VERIFICATION: life prediction.

Meet STANDARDS

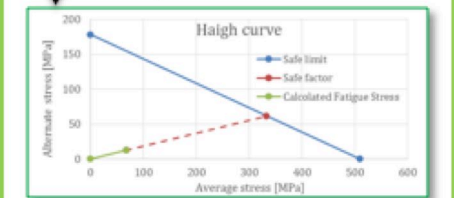
Wind Speed	State	Limit State	C1 Max	C2 Max	C3 Max	F1 Max	Safety Factor	Safety Factor	Build up
10	UL	ULS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
15	UL	ULS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
20	UL	ULS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Y = verified

High speed wind stress field

FE model: stress calculation under ultimate loads (high speed wind) and operational loads (low speed wind) for Fatigue analysis.

Low speed wind stress field



Fatigue analysis: LIFE PREDICTION [Years]

Costs assessment for a single trough: weight, manufacturing, work life and efficiency

Design of an innovative Solar Through

FINAL DESIGN

DESIGN AND TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS
(Manufacturing costs, materials and design solutions)

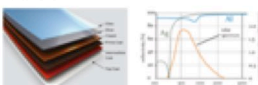
Dimensions



Design solutions and materials



Mirrors

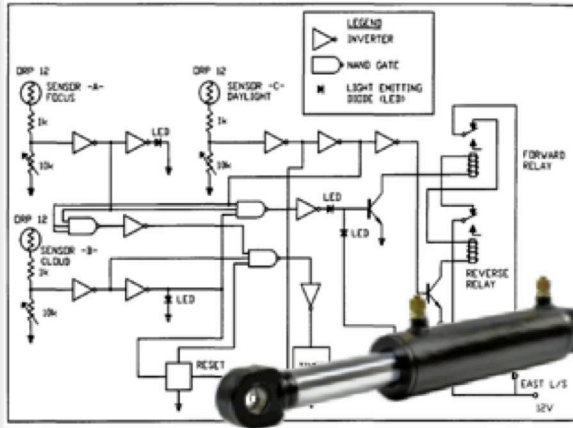


Receiver

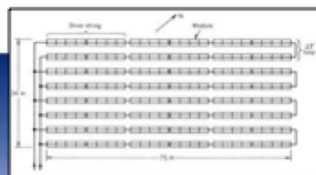


FINAL LAYOUT

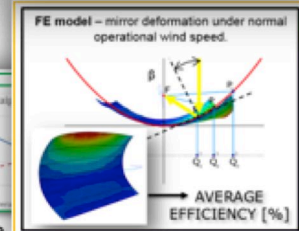
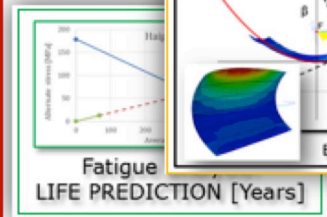
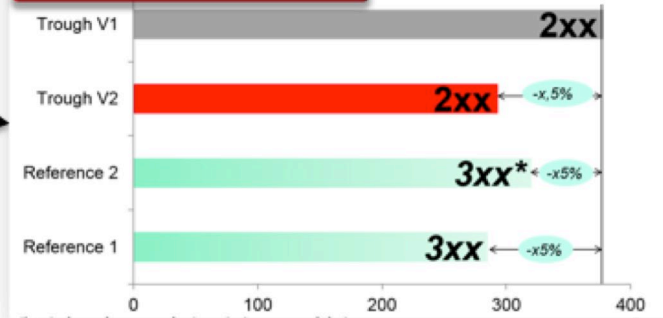
ACTUATION AND HYDRAULIC SYSTEM



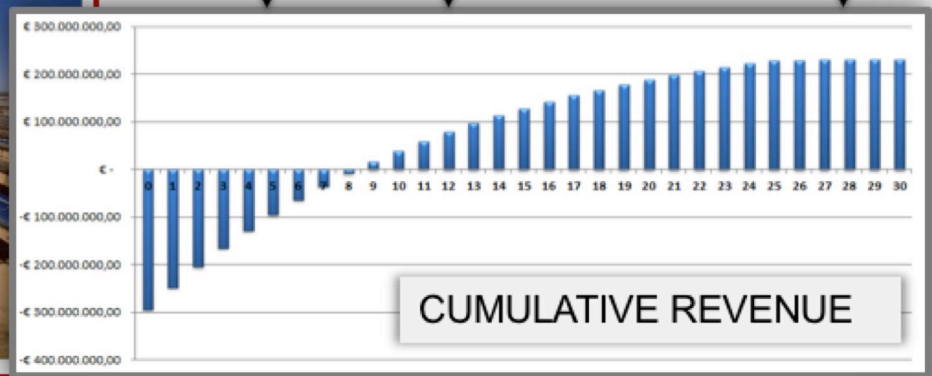
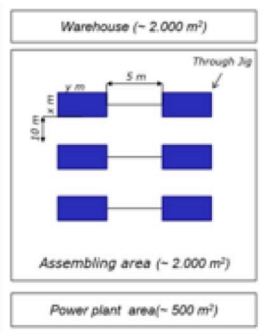
SOLAR FIELD DESIGN



Investment



WEREHOUSE OPTIMIZATION



Costs assessment for the through field: final revenue

Relevant projects submitted for evaluation

P.N.R.M. (Italian National Project for Military Research),

Consortium: Italy (Politecnico di Milano)



OPTY-V

Ottimizzazione di una Protezione “underbody” per Veicoli nei confronti di una carica sepolta (OPTY_V)

Improve and optimize survivability in under-body blast attack by means of advanced numerical modeling



VULNUS

Analisi della VULNerabilità di costrUzioni in calceStruzzo soggetti ad impatti ed esplosioni – VULNUS

Define a methodological approach for survivability analysis of concrete structure subjected to impact and explosion



Relevant projects submitted for evaluation

P.N.R.M. (Italian National Project for Military Research),

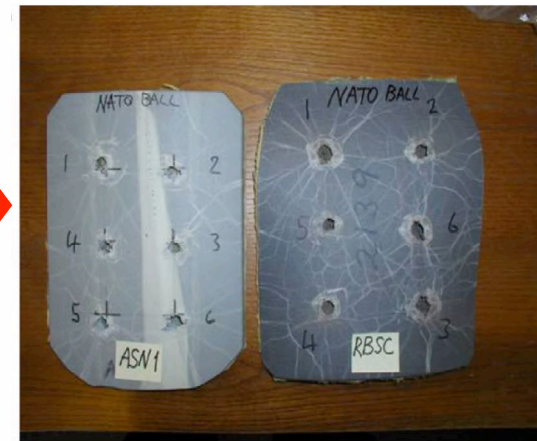
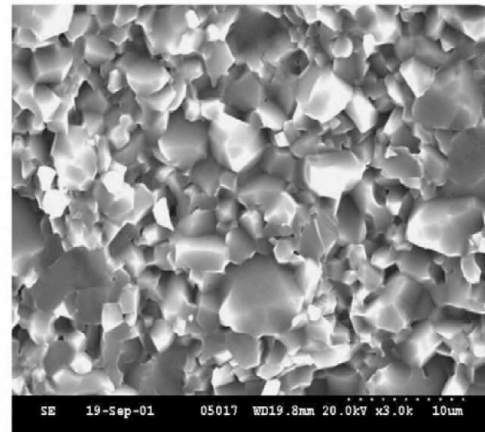
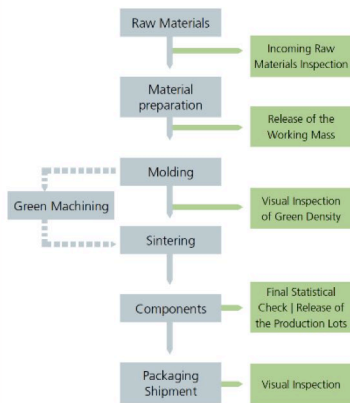
Consortium: Italy (Politecnico di Milano – Bitossi)



AIDENTITI

Identificazione una metodologia Efficace per la correlazione del processo tecnologico, proprietà fisiche e microstrutturali e prestazione balistica di piastrelle ceramiche

Identification of an effective methods in order to correlate technological process, physical and microstructural properties and ballistic performance of ceramic tiles



Relevant projects submitted for evaluation

PADR Preparatory action for defense research

Role: subcontractor in the consortium

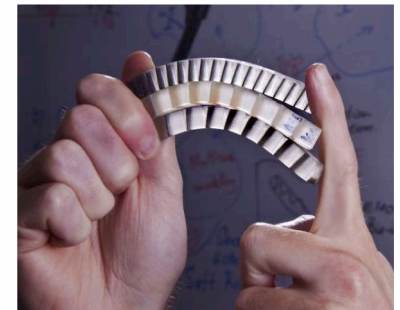
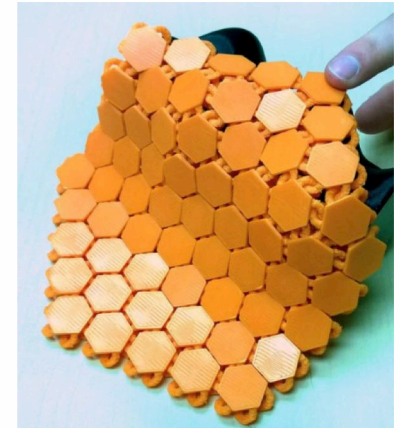


INCA

A project for the development of an innovative personal protection aimed to explore the best technologies in “soft armour”, “hard plate” and “CBRN”

ROLE of POLIMI

POLIMI will use his expertise in modelling terminal ballistic event to create analytical and numerical models to investigate on the behaviour of several solutions against high speed bullets. Focus on the reproduction of the back-face signature of bullets and fragments – Optimization



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