

# PRESS RELEASE

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AZL Aachen GmbH in cooperation with Aachen Center for integrative Lightweight Production (AZL) of RWTH Aachen

Aachen/Germany  
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## **AZL is building on the success of the study on Composites in Buildings & Infrastructure and is establishing a new Workgroup**

The AZL will continue its collaboration on composites in buildings and infrastructure after completing an initial market and technology study which identified new potentials for composite technologies in buildings and infrastructure markets. The aim of the new AZL Workgroup which will meet for the first time on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018 is to jointly develop new applications and to support the business development for composites in these two growing markets. The meeting is open to interested companies from the composite industry as well as the building and infrastructure markets.

The aim of the initial workgroup meeting will be to turn insights from the study into a long-term workgroup collaboration and to define topics and initiatives for the joint cooperation in the field of process and manufacturing technologies, fire safety regulations, materials as well as standards and norms. Industrial keynote presentations will introduce these action fields and will provide an insight into building and infrastructure applications for composites. The meeting will furthermore provide a platform to network with companies along the entire composite value chain.

Dr. Amer Affan, CEO and founder of AFFAN Innovative Structures based in Dubai is in charge of various composite projects for buildings such as the Museum of the Future in Dubai: “We have been utilizing structural composites in construction since 2010. Composites is a truly high-tech material compared with the traditional building materials (steel, concrete, timber and aluminum) but it is still to be recognized as such in the conservative and price-sensitive building industry. AZL, particularly its location at the RWTH Aachen University and its partner companies, offers a good platform to progress the use of composites in construction.”

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Your Contact:

Marina Biller | AZL Aachen GmbH | Head of Partner Network Services | Phone: +49 (0) 241 8904 380 |  
marina.biller@azl-aachen-gmbh.de | Seffenter Weg 201 | 52074 Aachen, Germany | www.azl-lightweight-production.com |

AZL together with more than 25 companies just completed the Joint Market and Technology Study on “New Potentials for Composite Technologies in Buildings and Infrastructure” establishing a broad knowledge on business opportunities for composite technologies in these two growing markets. In a structured approach, the study determined the key segments as well as the technologies/applications with the highest market and technological potential. Analyses of 20 market segments, investigation of 438 applications, technology analyses of 25 highlight components and 11 detailed business cases were elaborated throughout the study. Additional to requirement analyses for materials and production technologies, new concepts for efficient profitable production technologies and cost engineering analysis were developed. With the workgroup, the AZL will take this initiative a step further with the aim to build a long-term cooperation platform for composites in buildings and infrastructure markets.

Justin Jin, CEO of the Korean company AXIA Materials participated in the study and is part of the AZL Partner Network: “As producer of large thermoplastic composite sheets and composite SIP (Structural Insulated Panel), we are eager to drive composites in B&I applications with the best efficient way. The AZL study on Buildings and Infrastructure provided us a great networking with key players in this business field and opportunities to strengthen our products with the key elements from partners. The study also gave us a proper market understanding including market size/volume in numbers to prove the value of this technology to building industry. We are looking forward to following up on these first insights and to realize applications with the AZL and its partners.”

Besides the networking options, the meeting will offer the opportunity to get an insight into the activities of the AZL Network consisting of nine research institutes at the RWTH Aachen Campus and more than 80 companies from 21 countries. During an optional guided tour, participants will visit selected institutes at the RWTH Aachen Campus. The meeting is open to all interested companies and free of charge.

### **More Information on Meeting and the Study**

Information on AZL activities in the field of buildings and infrastructure:

[www.azl-lightweight-production.com/composites-buildings-infrastructure](http://www.azl-lightweight-production.com/composites-buildings-infrastructure)

Details and registration to first Workgroup Meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018:

<http://www.azl-lightweight-production.com/termine/1st-workgroup-meeting-buildings-infrastructure>

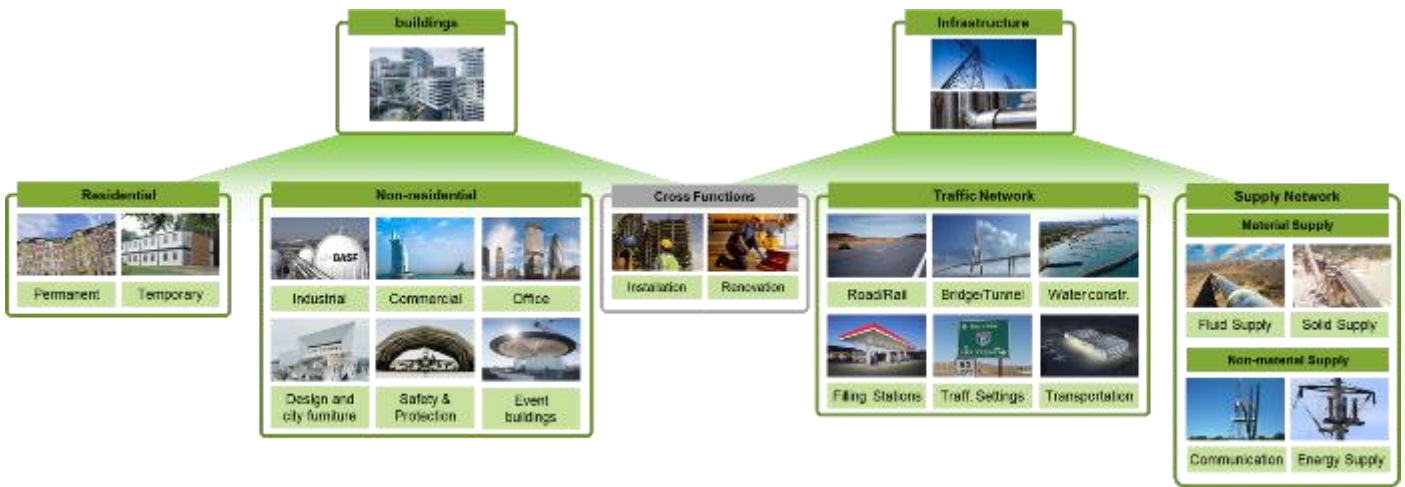
### **Pictures**

Download of high-resolution pictures: [http://azl-aachen-gmbh.de/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/BuildingsInfrastructure\\_AZL\\_Workgroup\\_Pictures.zip](http://azl-aachen-gmbh.de/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/BuildingsInfrastructure_AZL_Workgroup_Pictures.zip)

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Picture 1: The AZL Joint Market and Technology Study on “New Potentials for Composite Technologies in Buildings and Infrastructure Markets” followed a structured approach to identify 438 potential applications from 20 market segments. 25 of these were analyzed in technology analyses and 11 of these in detailed business cases.



Picture 2: Affan Innovative Structures is making the façade of the Museum of the Future which is currently under construction in Dubai. The façade will be made of fiber-reinforced stainless steel. Copyright: Affan Innovative Structures.



Picture 3: Pixel Haus® is AXIA’s new construction solution to build houses with composite sandwich panels. Due to the lightweight and size, it is possible to complete construction by simple assembly of the panels in less than a week still offering the same structural and finishing performance as conventional construction methods. Copyright: AXIA Materials.

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Picture 4: 25 companies participated in the AZL study on “New Potentials for Composite Technologies in Buildings and Infrastructure Markets” which started in 2016 and was completed in September 2017. Copyright: AZL Aachen GmbH/Keller.

## About AZL:

RWTH Aachen University is one of the worldwide leading universities in the field of production technology. The Aachen Center for integrative Lightweight Production (AZL) of RWTH Aachen consolidates the lightweight expertise of eight partner institutes with 750 scientists on the RWTH Aachen Campus. The AZL builds an international partner network between these institutes and more than 80 international companies involved in lightweight production.

For this, AZL consists of two separate entities: The AZL of RWTH Aachen University addresses the transformation of lightweight design in mass production with basic research and development of lightweight products, materials, production processes and systems with access to the latest full-scale machines and automation systems. As a service provider partnering with companies in the field of lightweight production technology, AZL Aachen GmbH provides industrial services in the areas of engineering, consultancy and project management, networking and business development. With the AZL Partnership, the AZL Aachen GmbH enables the close cooperation between the lightweight industry and the research institutes of RWTH Aachen Campus along the whole value chain. The AZL Partner Network consists of more than 80 industrial partners representing the entire lightweight production value chain from the raw material producer, over molders, manufacturing equipment suppliers, Tier 1 and Tier 2 to OEMs, from SMEs to large multinational corporations, from Germany to Mexico, China or Japan, from 21 different countries in total.

[www.azl.rwth-aachen.de](http://www.azl.rwth-aachen.de)

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