



**April 28, 2015, Aachen, Germany**

**Press release for immediate distribution**

**Two AZL partners are joining forces with AMAC's support: Composites market newcomer, Mexico-headquartered Katcon Advanced Materials and German engineering specialist M.TEC**

As of April 2015, through the excellence network in composites production technology of the Aachen Center for integrative Lightweight Production (AZL), the two partnering companies Katcon and M.TEC announce their strategic cooperation in order to establish a high-class product portfolio to serve Automotive and aircraft interior customers.

As a long-term reliable and established global Automotive supplier, family-owned Mexico-headquartered company Katcon has been serving directly and with great satisfaction over 60 OEM's in the worldwide Automotive industry. Financially strong and with significant investment potential, Katcon decided to expand and strategically divert its profitable activities in entering the composite market.

Dr. Michael Effing, Founder of AMAC GmbH, Senior Advisor to AZL and as of now, also European Representative of Katcon Advanced Materials is happy: "We started advising and introducing Katcon, the worldwide renowned manufacturer for Automotive exhaust systems, to the composite industry only in 2014. To see this project alive and operational already now shows efficient project management."

Fernando Turner, President of Katcon Advanced Materials explains: "Katcon is proud to invest in the fascinating and innovative composites industry with machines, people and business development: The AZL and the excellence in business development of AMAC helped us significantly to establish collaborations with international top players of the composite industry. In record time, we have chosen the latest Advanced material's manufacturing technology and equipment and bought state-of-the-art machines for processes like RTM for thermoset and for thermoplastic, thermoforming and hybrid moulding, as well as related post-processing technologies."

With these techniques, Katcon focusses on Automotive and aircraft interior applications like external & internal body panels, underbody and structural components, doors, tailgates, floor pans or seats. While developing its in-house engineering capabilities, Katcon is relying on M.TEC's cooperation expertise.

Dr. Volker Gorzelitz, CEO of M.TEC: "Starting as a spin-off from Aachen University's Institute for Plastics processing (IKV) over 20 years ago, we are now established on the market as a specialist in calculation, designing and engineering of parts. We are happy to support Katcon in entering the advanced materials industry with our know-how and expertise."

Dr. Kai Fischer, Managing Director of AZL Aachen GmbH: “This cooperation is an example of the efficient usage of our network and its specialized lightweight know-how along the entire value chain – a complete new working team has thus been set up. To see how quickly AZL and its high quality lightweight competence network bears fruits is extremely satisfying for us. We wish Katcon and M.TEC best success as world-class supplier cooperation in serving the worldwide transportation market.”

In the cooperation of these four partners, AMAC assures business development and establishing Katcon’s market share on the European market, AZL leads the process development and manufacturing, and M.TEC takes care of design and engineering. Katcon develops, produces and sales worldwide with its production facilities in Europe, USA, Mexico and Asia.

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## **AMAC**

AMAC GmbH is an Industrial and Business Consulting Company in the field of lightweight construction materials, based in Aachen, Germany. The business model of AMAC is based on three pillars: establishment and development of networking and clusters between universities and industrial companies, training in Sales and Marketing excellence, as well as Management of Industrial projects. Dr. Michael Effing is Chairman of Composites Europe and AVK.

[www.amac-international.com](http://www.amac-international.com)

## **AZL**

The worldwide unique lightweight competence network “Aachen Center for Integrative Lightweight Production” (AZL) of RWTH Aachen demonstrates significant lightweight expertise in research and development. The aim of AZL is to develop, in cooperation with its industrial partners, automated production of load- and cost-optimized lightweight components, suitable for mass production and versatile process chains in composite and multi-material design. This will be done in close interdisciplinary cooperation between material science and manufacturing technology. The AZL of RWTH Aachen handles the teaching activities as well as research and development inquiries with access to the latest full-scale machines and automation systems. The offer of AZL Aachen GmbH, as cooperative service provider in the field of lightweight production technology, includes the areas of engineering, advisory, consultancy and project management, networking and human resources marketing. [www.azl-aachen-gmbh.de](http://www.azl-aachen-gmbh.de)

## **M.TEC**

M.TEC was founded in 1991 and is an engineering company with focus on integrated product development. Interdisciplinary teams of experts develop and design technical products from initial idea to series maturity. Companies with renowned brands operating international have trusted for more than 20 years in the engineering performances of M.TEC. M.TEC is focused on the markets automotive, household appliances, medical technology, electronics, telecommunications and tool and machine construction.

[www.mtec-engineering.de](http://www.mtec-engineering.de)

## **KATCON Advanced Materials**

Katcon Global, headquartered in Monterrey, Mexico, is a strong OEM and Tier 1 supplier to the Automotive industry for emission and exhaust systems since 1993. Today, Katcon operates in 10 countries, supporting over 60 OEM and Tier 1 customers globally. Building on its long term tradition and success in developing, designing, testing, engineering and manufacturing, and in line with its "Vision of a Clear Sky", Katcon has decided to launch its new strategic business unit, "Katcon Advanced Materials", focusing on lightweight automotive structural components and aircraft interior parts. Katcon is committed to help its customers make lighter, more fuel efficient vehicles and achieve their mandatory CO2 emission targets, maintaining its commitment of lean structure and cost competitiveness. In order to be a world class supplier, Katcon Advanced Materials has invested in the best technology and formed partnerships with some of the best technical teams in the field of composites, such as AZL, AMAC, M.Tec, based in Germany. To start operations, Katcon acquired the latest advanced manufacturing technologies: high pressure RTM, thermoplastic injection moulding and thermoforming. The first advanced materials manufacturing plant is in Monterrey, Mexico, with easy and cost effective JIT access to North American clients and with favorable ocean freight costs to Europe and Asia, further production facilities are planned in Europe.

[www.katcon.com/advancedmaterials](http://www.katcon.com/advancedmaterials)

### **Your media contact for further information is:**

Mona Bielmeier, Marketing and Communications Manager, AMAC GmbH  
[amac-communications@effing-aachen.de](mailto:amac-communications@effing-aachen.de), Tel.: +49 (0) 151 651 79 021