

### **New Technical Centre increases advanced composite development for motorsport and aerospace applications**

*Rare 350°C, 200PSi 5m\*2m autoclave part of new centre to develop complex and high quality composite components*

Motorsport engineering specialist BERU f1systems has opened a new composites facility that will offer motorsport and aerospace companies a high temperature, high pressure 5m\*2m autoclave to develop advanced, complex and high quality prototype and production composite components. The 350°C autoclave, believed to be one of only a handful in the UK, is ideally suited for developing temperature resistant and low toxicity composites whilst the 200PSi pressure enhances quality even on intricate and complex parts.

“Through our Wire in Composite (WiC) aerospace development programmes and our Factor 001 composite bicycle, we are looking at sophisticated materials that can survive extended periods in high temperatures, together with a separate requirement for exceptional quality,” says managing director John Bailey. “Our new autoclave will help us develop lightweight and durable solutions to increase reliability, product quality or reduce weight.”

Installed in BERU f1systems’ newly constructed Technical Centre in Diss Norfolk, the autoclave is accompanied by a new preparation area with automatic cutting table and walk-in freezer for storing composites. With a significant increase in ongoing composite work, for both wiring looms and their WiC technology, the firm will also retain its existing 2m\*1m autoclave. The larger size autoclave will allow BERU f1systems to manufacture larger units, such as airboxes, aero and chassis tubs.

“Our F1 wiring harnesses are increasing in complexity, requiring more integration with structural parts, ECUs and junction boxes,” continues Bailey. “As usage grows, we must develop derivatives that will allow composites to

function for extended periods, often in high temperature or harsh environmental conditions.”

BERU f1systems already supplies high quality composite components to motorsport and OE road programmes. With strong design and engineering expertise in-house, the firm has been able to offer improved weight and performance characteristics, even over existing carbon material products. “Our motorsport heritage drives us to develop the lightest, most durable solution,” concludes Bailey. “We have been able to save weight and cost on existing composite parts by applying our design principles.”


### **About BERU f1systems**

Founded in 1993 and since 2001, a specialist division of BERU AG, BERU f1systems offers advanced design and manufacturing facilities for vehicle wiring harness systems, tyre pressure monitoring, stress measurement and composites. Supplied to world championship winning cars in every major formula and every Formula 1 team, components from BERU f1systems are now available in military, road car, aerospace and nautical applications. In January 2007, BERU f1systems won the prestigious Autosport International Innovation of the show for its Wire in Composite technology.

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## Photographs

Available from Nick Bailey email (see below)

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### Sales Enquiries

John Bailey, Managing Director,

BERU f1systems, Technical Centre, Owen Road, Diss, Norfolk, IP22 4ER, UK

Tel: +44 (0) 1379 646200

Email: [john.bailey@bf1systems.com](mailto:john.bailey@bf1systems.com)

### Press Enquiries

Nick Bailey

Market Engineering Ltd. 43-44 North Bar, Banbury, OX16 0TH, UK.

Tel: +44 (0) 1295 277050

Fax: +44 (0) 1295 277030

Email: [nick.bailey@m-eng.com](mailto:nick.bailey@m-eng.com)

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