

Contents

SPECIAL ISSUE ON JOINING TECHNOLOGIES FOR COMPOSITES

Editorial

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Special Issue Articles

A comparison of the effect of riveting and cold expansion on the strain distribution and fatigue performance of fiber metal laminates

D Backman and EA Patterson

New composite timbers: full-field analysis of adhesive behaviour

B Clouet, R Pommier and M Danis

Controlling pretension of silicone membranes on micro air vehicle wings

YJ Abudaram, PG Ifju, JP Hubner and L Ukeiley

Characterization of atmospheric plasma as a surface preparation process for the bonding of space composite materials

RJ Zaldivar, GL Steckel, JP Nokes, BA Morgan and HI Kim

Development of residual stresses during electron beam processing

C Demaria, P Paździor, A Johnston, D Djokic and P Hubert

139

141

155

161

171

179

membranes and addresses the challenges involved in adhesive bonding of thin structures while controlling pretension in the membrane. This work uses digital image correlation-based techniques to assess the strain field resulting from different assembly methodologies.

Kafael Zaldivar and his co-authors look at a different bonding by focusing on surface treatment of composites using atmospheric plasma. This work atomic force microscopy and X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy are used to investigate the surface morphology and chemistry of the treated composite and are then correlated to lap shear bond strengths.

The work by Drazen Djokic and his colleagues at National Research Council Canada showed another special side of the work being done on joining technologies. In this study, Djokic et al. look at furthering the use of electron beam curing for composites and to this end they describe a novel experimental setup that can be used to characterize residual stress state from electron beam curing allowing them to make a comparison between electron beam and more traditional thermal cure methods.

Each research article in this issue provides a solid contribution to the body of scientific knowledge; taken together they provide both a broad perspective and a unique angle on the work being done in this important field of research.

I am grateful to all the authors for their valued contributions and to the Editor and Board of the *Journal of Strain Analysis* for choosing this subject for a special edition.

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