

3D Wood 4 Auto, the project that uses natural wood material and aims to reduce their carbon footprint by substituting fossil materials with natural alternatives

F3 is the biggest business group in the history of the Spanish automotive industry and is made up of more than 50 companies, including Simoldes, a company specialized in the development and production of components for the automotive sector, which is promoting the development of this project.

Valencia, 2 ns September 2024 - Researching natural wood-based materials, especially light and sustainable, to replace current materials used in the manufacture of electric vehicles components. This is the main objective of 3D Wood 4 Auto, a project financed by the Ministry of Industry, commerce and Tourism, through Next Generation EU funds under the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan, which started in March and contributes directly to the transition towards a circular economy, as well as to the transformation of the Spanish economy.

Simoldes Plásticos España, company specialized in the development and production of components for the automotive sector, is also a member of 'Agrupación F3', which is made up of more than 50 companies and represents the biggest business grouping in the Spanish automotive industry.

The aim of this research is to obtain new components from natural wood that allows to reduce the use of fossils materials that are being used in the current manufacturing process, contributing to the development of lighter Electrical vehicles and contribute in autonomy and sustainability increase.

By utilizing 3D natural wood parts to achieve innovative and sustainable solutions, the promoters of the 3D Wood 4 Auto project highlight a pivotal moment for the automotive industry: "today, research in this field of the application of natural materials in the automotive industry is conventional and limited. We want to provide it with a dynamic technical-functional applicability and a high-value aesthetic, a concept that stands out for its three-dimensionality, creativity and originality", has explained the Project Manager of 'Simoldes Plásticos', Carla Alexandra Silva.

"We are talking about materials and products with high added value, a project in which we have the knowledge and experience of two leading centers in technology and innovation," has explained Silva, referring to the participation of the Plastics Technology Centre (AIMPLAS) in the project. Specifically, Simoldes points out as main challenges the research and development of new natural materials, with high added value to reduce weight, with high specific heat, low thermal conductivity coefficient and high electromagnetic shielding efficiency for EV components. Although thermoplastics are materials with low thermal conductivity and low magnetic shielding, their properties can be improved by additives or nanotechnology, since one of the objectives is functionality combined with the reduction of carbon emissions.

Aligned with the goal of directly impacting the development of the sector, 3D Wood 4 Auto is part of the Future project: Fast Forward, which in turn seeks to promote the development and manufacture of electric and connected vehicles, based on the sustainability of the entire value chain and aims to make Spain the European hub of electromobility. In fact, in Spain, the main consumer of final energy is transportation, reaching a percentage of 40%. Moreover, this industry is also responsible for more than 26% of the emissions that cause climate change. With these figures, the promoters of the project have stressed the need to reverse the current trend in the sector, both in terms of efficiency and in strictly environmental terms.

About Simoldes Plastics

Simoldes Plastics, a leader in the thermoplastic injection industry in Portugal with over 40 years' experience, specializes in high-quality plastic components for the automotive market. Part of the Simoldes Group with over 60 years of accumulated experience, it is a 100% privately owned company that operates internationally in Europe, South America and North Africa, with advanced manufacturing facilities that guarantee precision and efficiency. Its focus on lightweight and durable solutions aligns with ecological practices, emphasizing recyclable materials and energy efficiency. Through continuous research and development, Simoldes Plastics provides innovative and customized products, maintaining its position as a trusted partner in the plastics industry, especially in the automotive field by directly supplying various OEMs.



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