

# Super Light Car

Sustainable Production Technologies for CO<sub>2</sub>  
Emission Reduced Light weight Car concepts  
(SLC)

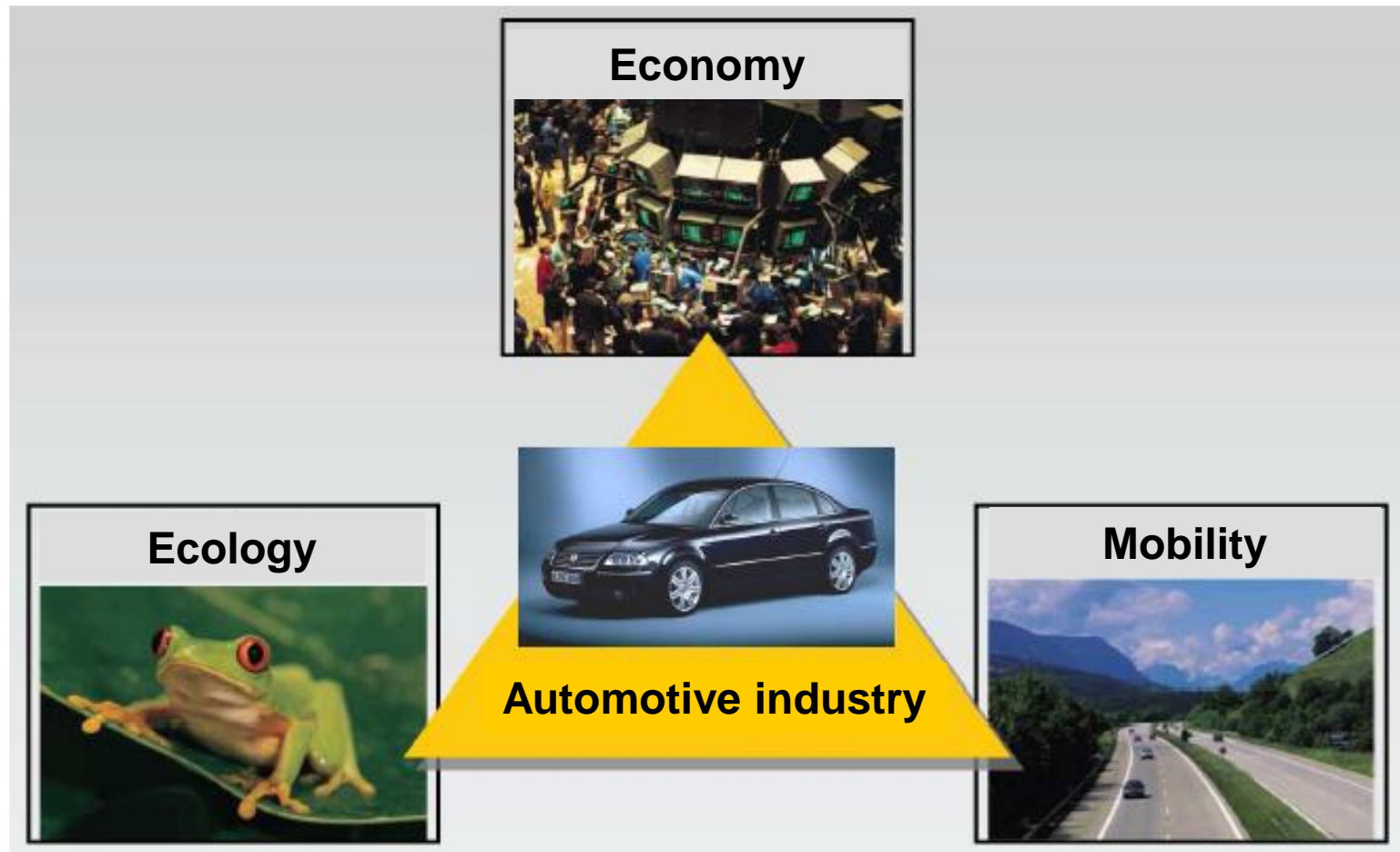
Volkswagen Group, Group Research, Wolfsburg  
Dr. Marc Stehlin

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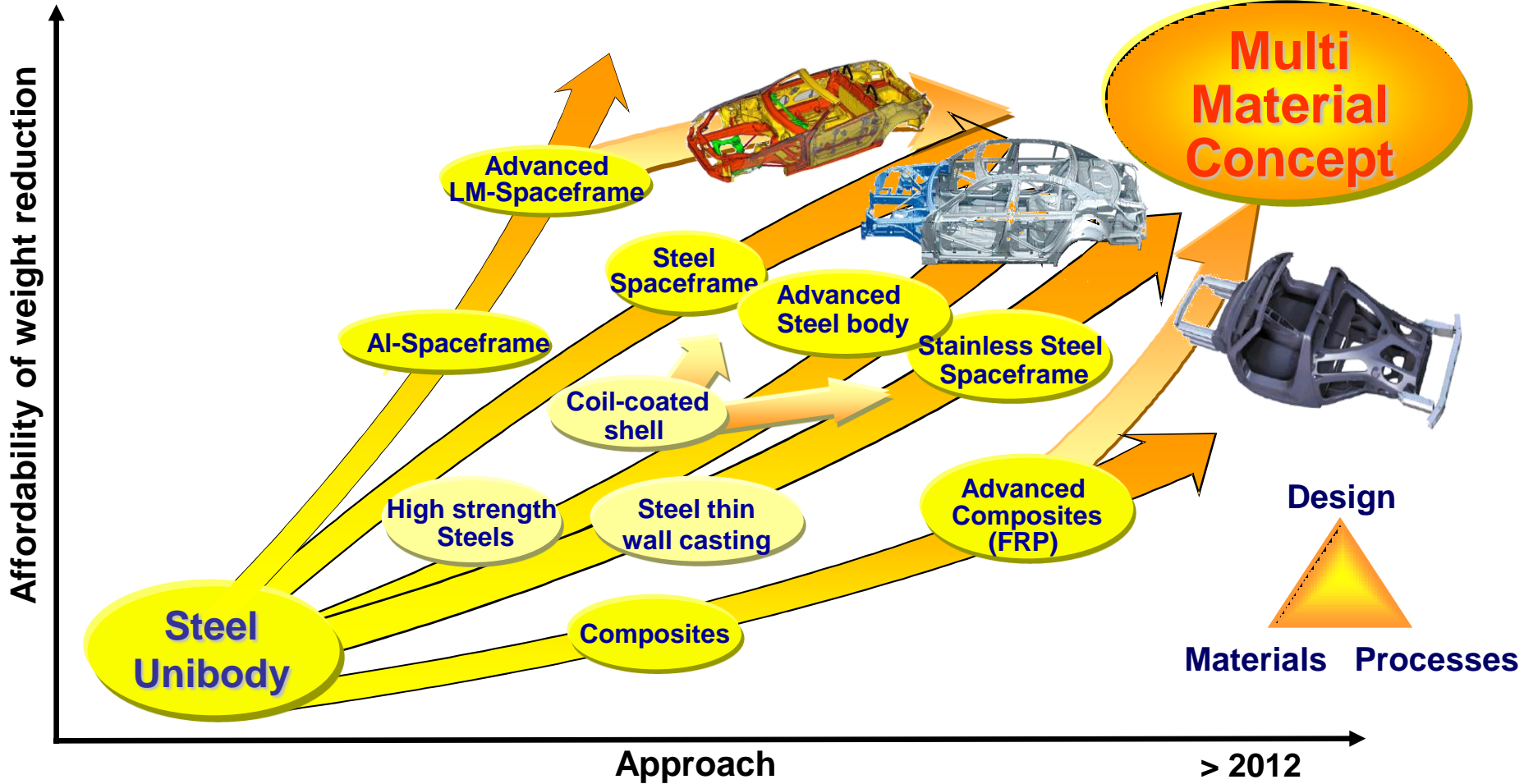
- General demands
- SuperLightCar (SLC) project: overview
- SLC: Concept & Design
- SLC: Manufacturability
- SLC: Enabling Technology/Tools
- SLC: Demonstration
- Conclusions

# Automotive engineering conflict...



# Main Challenge in body design

## Multi-Material Concepts



# General information



<b>Project full title:</b>	<u>S</u> ustainable <u>P</u> roduction Technologies of <u>E</u> mission <u>R</u> educed <u>L</u> ight weight <u>C</u> ar concepts ( <b>SLC</b> )	
<b>IP Number:</b>	516465 (Call 2B „Surface Transport“)	
<b>IP Coordinator:</b>	Volkswagen; Dr. Martin Goede	
<b>Project partners:</b>	7 OEM's: C.R.F., DC, Porsche, Renault, Volvo, Opel, VW 10 R&D Companies 10 Suppliers 7 Universities 3 SME	
<b>Start Date of contract:</b>	01/02/2005	<b>Duration:</b> 48 months
<b>Total Budget:</b>	19,2 MEUR	<b>Funding:</b> 10,5 MEUR



# SLC: Motivation & Objectives

## Motivation:

The Mission of “SuperLightCar” is the realization of advanced multi-material vehicle structures using break-through technologies for economic, lightweight design. It is the aim to apply advanced light weight materials, modular vehicle architectures and advanced manufacturing meeting series production feasibility.

## Objectives

The main objective of SLC is the development of innovative multi-material lightweight design for vehicle structures achieving:

- 30% weight reduced vehicle structure (BIW)
- Cost reduced multi-material manufacturability
- High volume capability
- Benchmark performance (C-class segment)
- Recyclability / Sustainability

# Superlight-Car Consortium

37 research partners + 5 associated external partners



## OEM



## DESIGN & ENGINEERING



## STEELS



## PLASTICS



## JOINING



## MATERIAL TESTING



## SUSTAINABILITY

## LIGHT METALS

## SIMULATION



# Sub project overview



**SP1**

**SP2**

**SP3**

**SP4**



# Preliminary SLC body concepts



**Steel intensive**

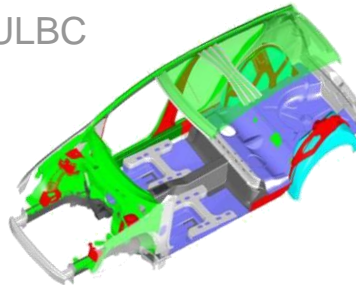
**Weight reduction:** 40 kg  
(14 %)\*

**Additional part costs:** < 2,5 €/kg

**Highlights:**

- Strut tower in FeMn-Steel
- Tunnel in hot-formed steel (Usibor 1500)
- Body side and B-pillar in dualphase-steel
- Roof in Quietsteel
- Fender in Steel polymer composite

**ULBC**



**Multi-Material, economic**

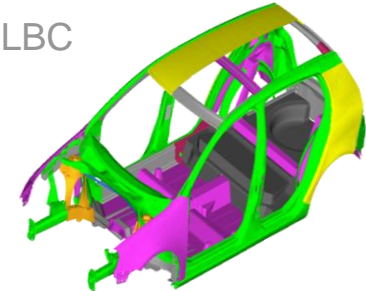
**Weight reduction:** 62 kg  
(22 %)\*

**Additional part costs:** < 5,0 €/kg

**Highlights:**

- Longitudinal rail in FeMn tailored welded blanks
- Suspension-strut mount as Al-diecast
- Tunnel in FeMn-blank
- Rear wheelhouse in Al-diecast
- Inner B-pillar in Al-diecast
- Roof in Al-blank

**SLBC**



**Multi-Material, advanced**

**Weight reduction:** 114 kg  
(41 %)

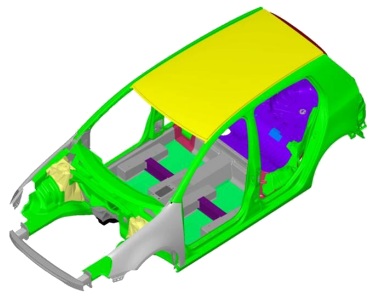
**Additional part costs:** < 10,0 €/kg

**Highlights:**

- Longitudinal rail in HSS tailored welded blanks
- Strut tower in Mg-diecast
- Floor panel in Al- and Mg-blank
- Wheelhouse and rear longitudinal rail in Al-blank
- Inner B-pillar in hot formd steel
- Roof in Mg-blank

\* Equivalent structural performance vs. SLC reference body structure

# SLC body structure concept



SLC

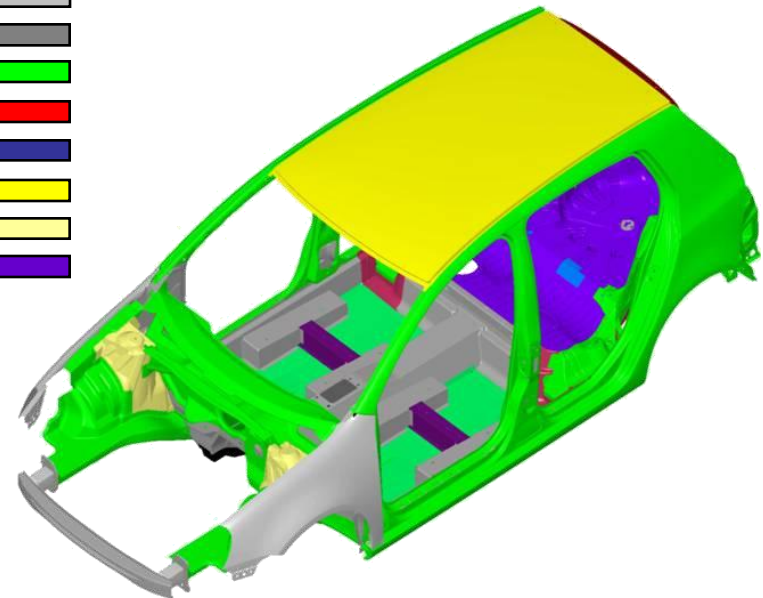
**Weight reduction:** ~30%

**Additional part costs:** < 5,0 €/kg

**Highlights:**

- Mg-Strut tower (die cast)
- Mg-Roof
- Hot formed steel door aperture
- FR plastic roof cross beam
- FR plastic rear floor
- Al-Casting rear longitudinal
- Polymer reinforced seat cross-member

- High strength steel
- Hot-formed steel
- Aluminium sheet
- Aluminium cast
- Aluminum extrusion
- Mg-sheet
- Mg-diecast
- Fibre reinforced plastic



**Material Mix:**

Steel parts weight:	approx. 50 %
Al parts weight:	approx. 35 %
Mg parts weight:	approx. 8 %
Plastic parts weight:	approx. 7 %

# Sub project overview



## Concepts & Design

- Multi-attribute vehicle optimization
- Parts/modules concepts
- Design guidelines

Multi-M

SP2

SP3

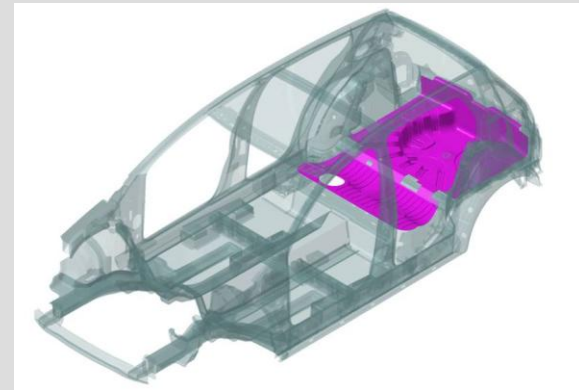
SP4

# LFT and Mg sheet hot forming



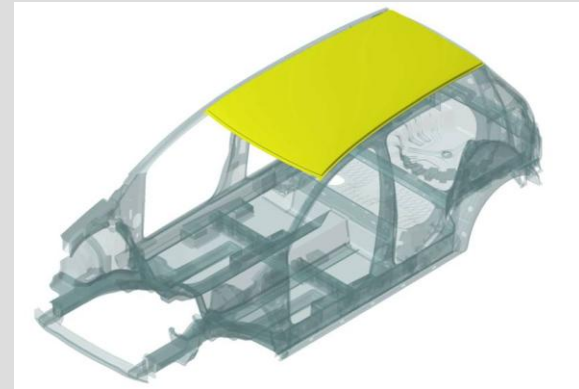
## LFT Panels Forming

- Low material and production cost requirements
- LFT technology is available as state of the art for high volume production
- 2 technology demonstrator parts will be produced (parts rear floor)



## Magnesium hot Forming

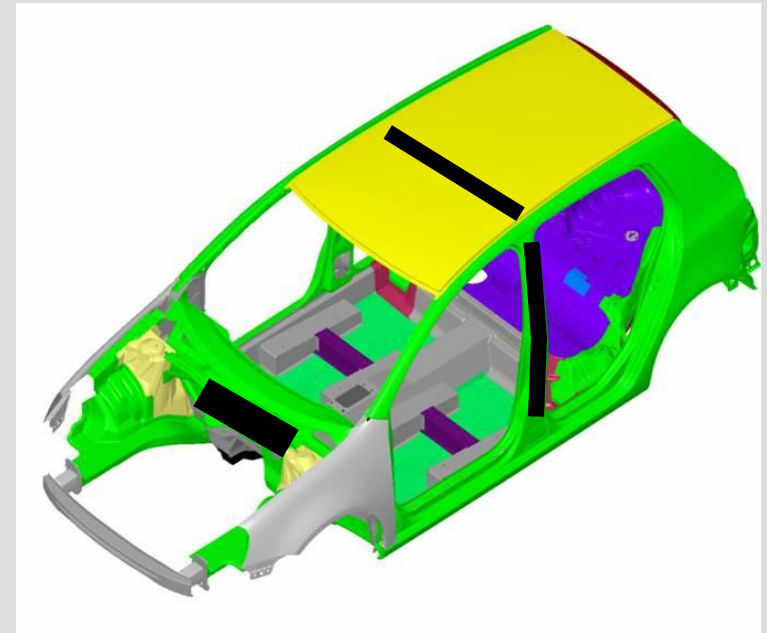
- virtual and experimental activity focused on magnesium warm forming on the **roof**



# Resin Transfer Moulding

## RTM process

- FRP structural parts offer a very high weight saving potential
- Process and material are being optimized for cost reduction
- Matrix materials thermo set and thermo-plastic resins are both investigated
- Processes are ready for large volumes but costs are still not on the level of light metal parts



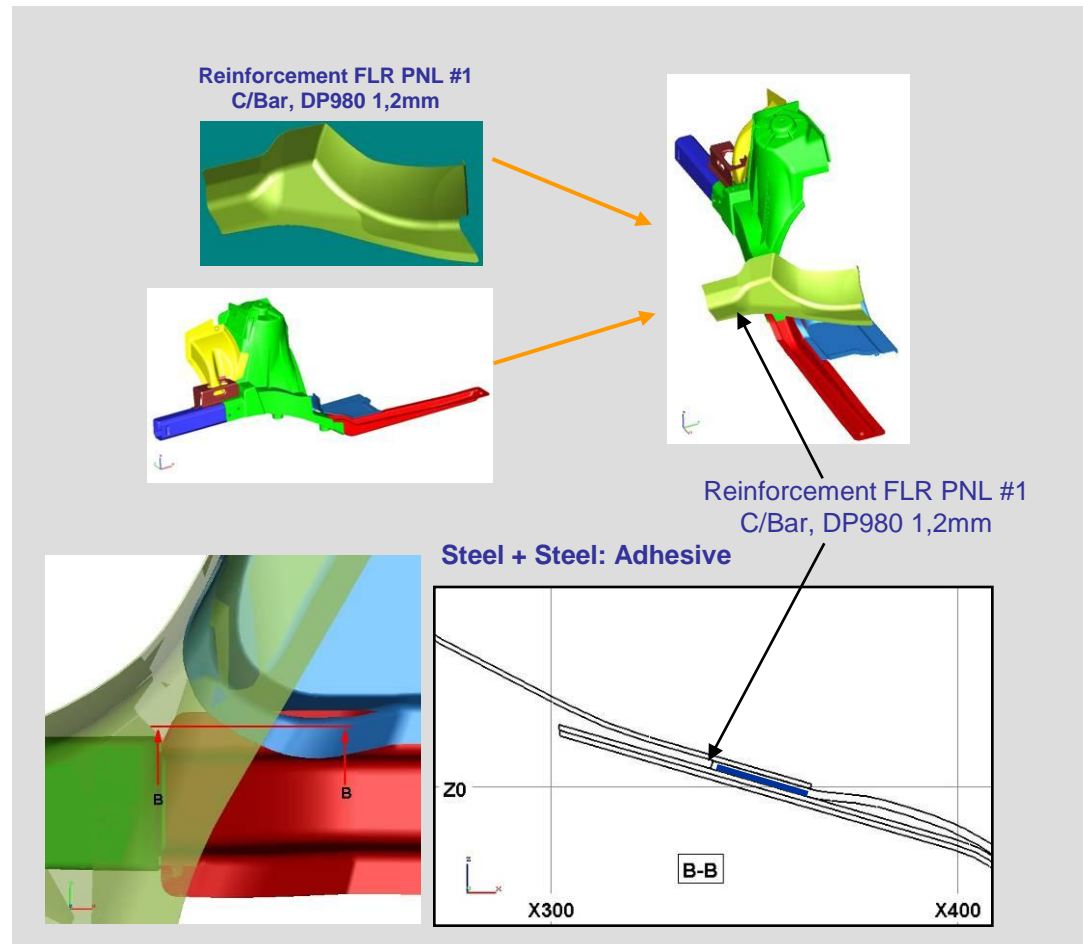
## Applications of interest:

- Roof crossbeam,
- B-pillar reinforcement,
- front structure fire wall

# Joining Technologies

## Joining definition

- Precise definition of all necessary joining steps for complete assembly of the BiW
- Analysis of state-of-the-art and new joining technologies for their application within SLC
- Materials combination review and joining feasibility
- Definition of joining methods, processing parameters and setup for each subassembly



# Assembly Cycle Layout



## Assembly layout tasks

- Definition of a standard production layout for the production of 1000 car/day
- Development of a first prototype of the mathematical model (excel base) to test the first evaluation on data
- Implementation of the model on a real application case
- Evaluation of the surface and costs needed



- Greenhouse Assembly
- Platform Assembly

# Sub project overview



## Concepts & Design

- Multi-attribute vehicle optimization
- Parts/modules concepts
- Design guidelines

## Manufacturability

- Joining and Assembly
- Technology monitoring
- Uniform class A surfaces
- Low cost high volume manufacturability

Multi-Material

SP3

SP4

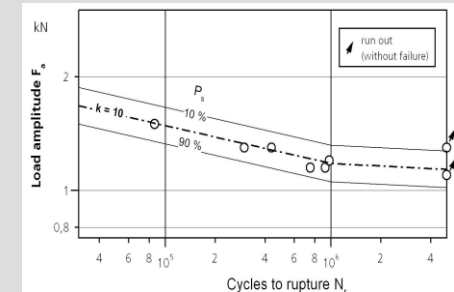


# New Materials Characterization for Failure Prediction



## Work tasks:

- Test of shear-tension specimens with various joining techniques
- Woehler curves are derived from fatigue tests of specimens
- Create a model to simulate the fatigue behaviour of joints based on FE analyses and material's data
- Validate the FE model based on experimental data (measured strains)
- Data characterising the crash behaviour are derived from high-speed tensile tests
- Static and dynamic hat profile component tests
- The results of tests will optimize the virtual simulation model

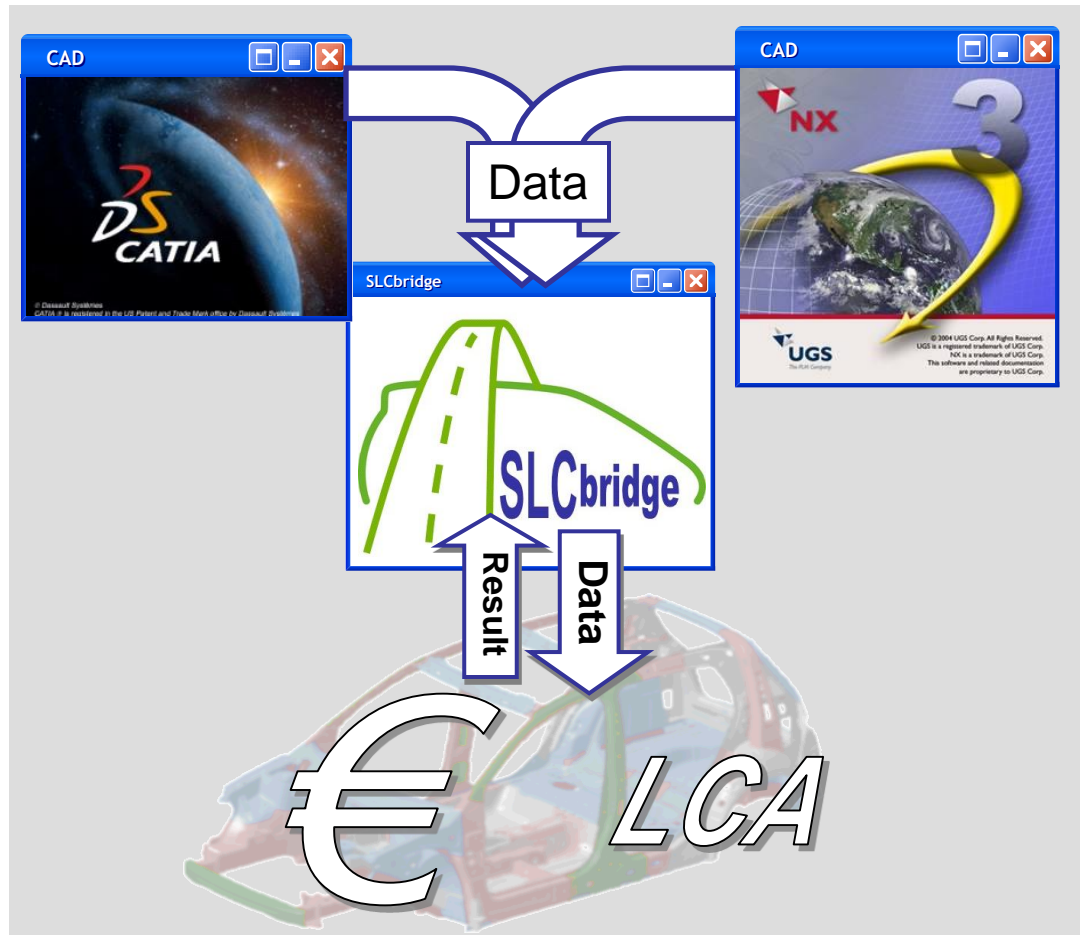


# SLC Bridge



## SLC bridge tasks:

- The SLC bridge provides design engineers with a quick and easy tool for Life Cycle Assessment and Cost comparisons between design and concept alternatives based on CAD data
- Enables Trend Statements in early design phases to support concept decisions based on CAD information.

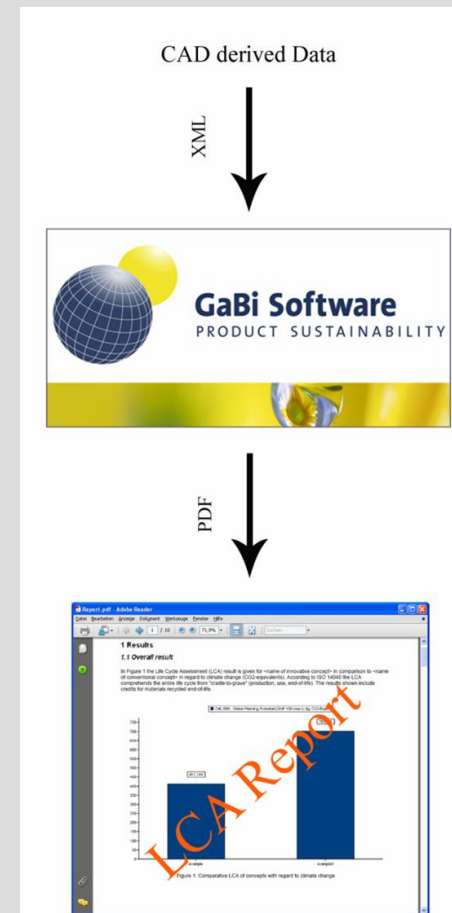


# Life Cycle Analysis



## LCA tasks:

- Mapping of materials with SLC labels to GaBi processes
- Integration of a fuzzy logic module to calculate credits for recycling
- Automated calculation of LCA results
- Generation of an application executable with command line parameters that offers completely automated LCA result generation from CAD.



# SLC Cost Tool

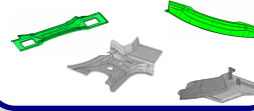


## Cost tool:

- Detailed cost breakdown for each concept stage
- Single part costs separated by technology and assembly costs
- Single parts costs are divided into material, labour, machine, tool, building and energy cost
- Management-like summary to quickly identify key figures of the concept - overall weight, weight by module, overall cost, cost by module

## Part cost

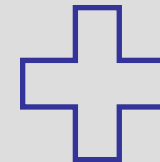
Stamping parts



Hot stamping parts



Casting parts



## Assembly cost



...  
**Total body cost  
without paint**

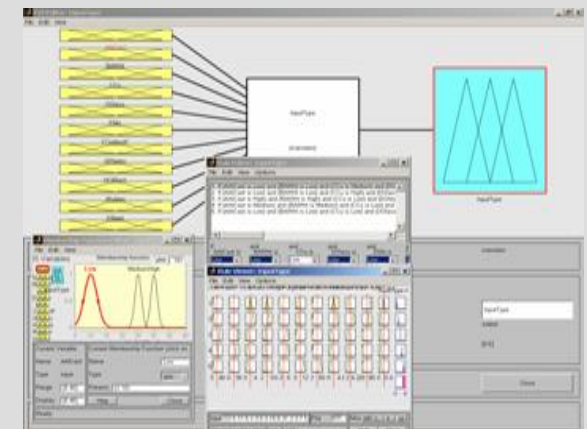
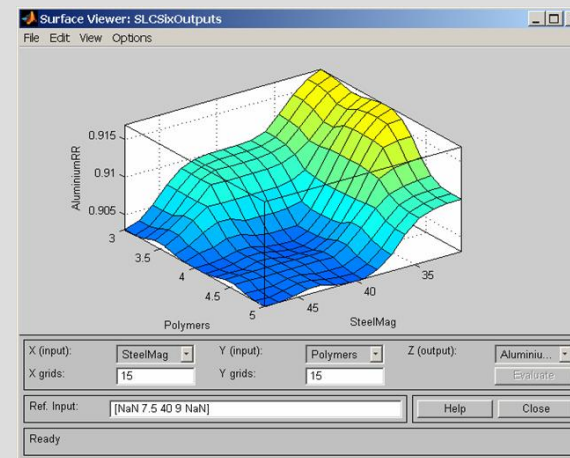


# SLC Recycling Tool



## Recycling tool

- Recycling models predict the total recycling/recovery yields of the SLC concepts as well as the recycling yield for each material
- Recycling models capture the detailed knowledge of the earlier developed first principles recycling models in an easy to use tool

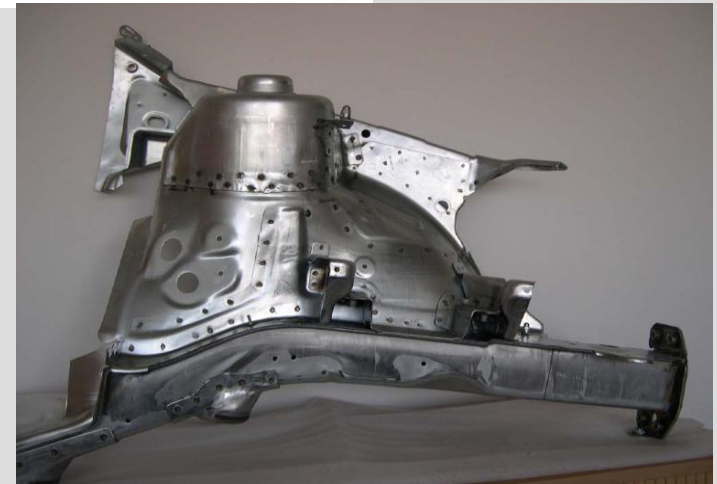
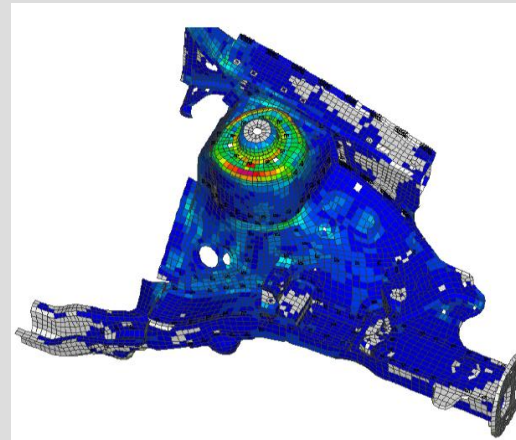


# Virtual and Physical Testing



## Component testing approach:

- Derive loading for demonstrator using “Real Road” vehicle test
- Set up simulation model for reference module
- Find clamping conditions and loading for reference module
- Evaluate simulation models based on reference tests



# Sub project overview



## Concepts & Design

- Multi-attribute vehicle optimization
- Parts/modules concepts
- Design guidelines

## Manufacturability

- Joining and Assembly
- Technology monitoring
- Uniform class A surfaces
- Low cost high volume manufacturability

Multi-Material  
Lightwe

## Enabling Technology/Tools

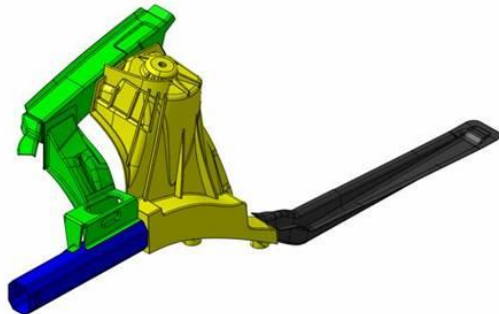
- Cost simulation
- Crash/Fatigue simulation
- Fatigue prediction
- Design for environment

SP4

# Number of prototypes planned



## Longitudinal rail

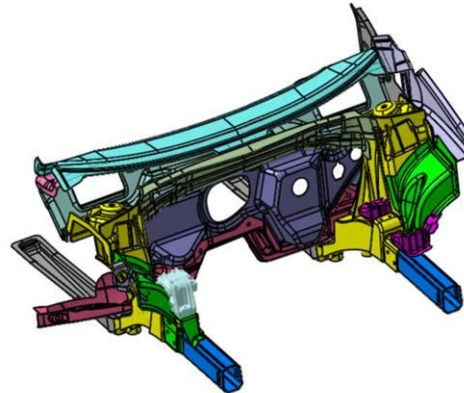


6

Assembled  
by Renault

Tested by LBF

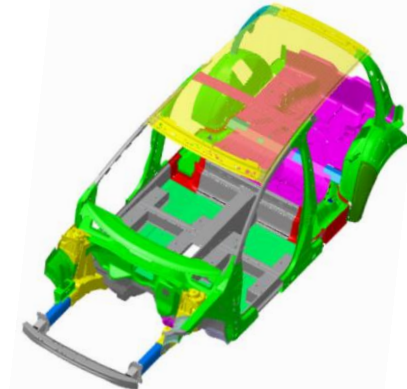
## Front end



2

Assembled  
by Renault

## Complete BIW

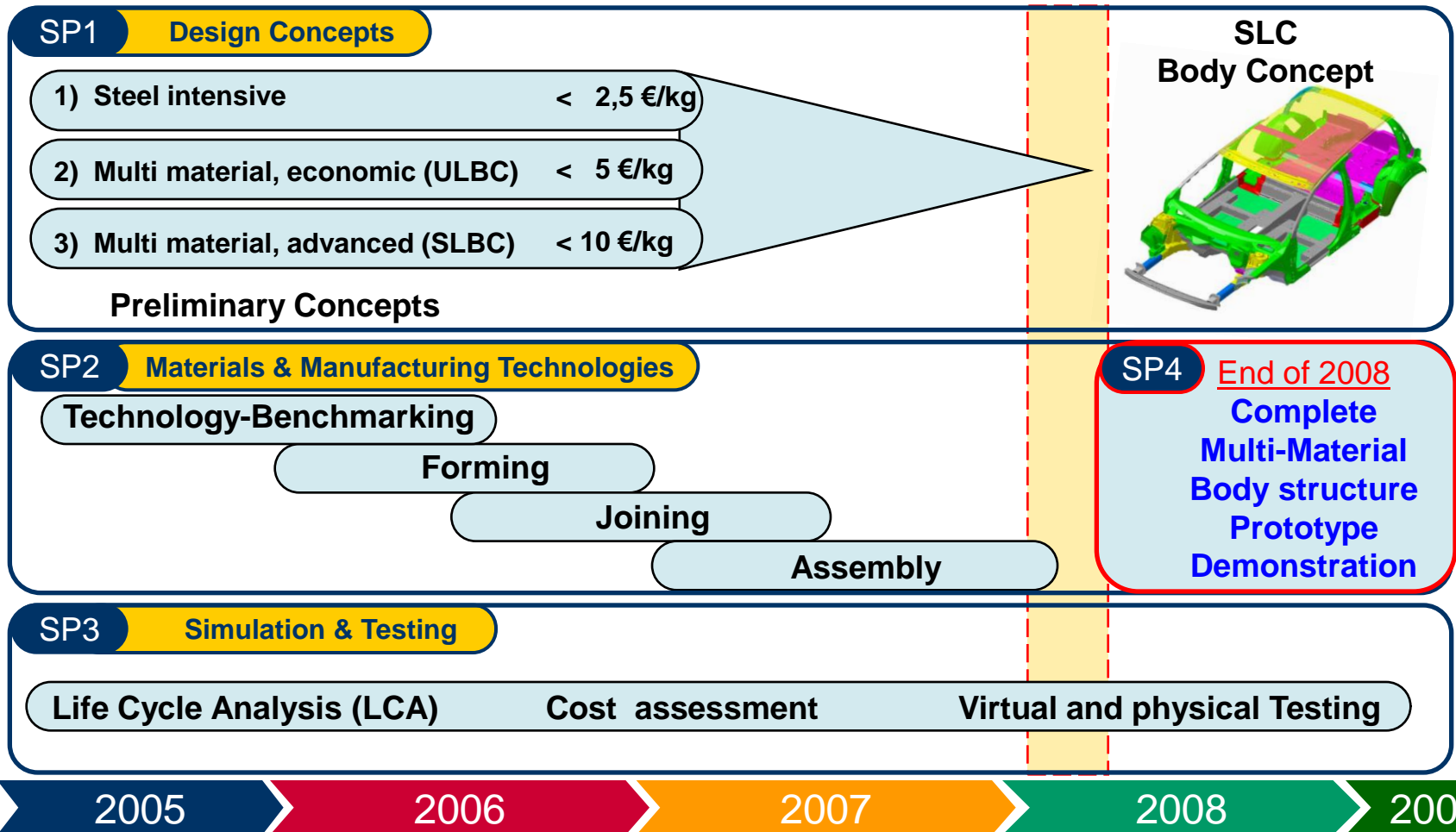


1

Complete  
demonstrator  
assembled by VW



# SLC Approach – Final Step



# Conclusions



- **Automotive light weight solutions are necessary more than ever to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.**
- All the car manufacturers are working on advanced multi-material concepts that better exploit materials lightening potential combining steel, aluminum, magnesium, plastics and composites.
- The principle idea is to **use the "best" material for the appropriate functions.**
- The additional goal is to achieve an overall cost efficient lightweight design. **Multi-Material-Concepts promise cost effective light weight solutions.**
- Sustainable weight reduction demands affordable manufacturing technologies within complete processing chain.
- **SLC results will survey the basis for innovative overall vehicle downsizing strategies.**

# Acknowledgments



All research activities are integrated in the european funded project **SLC** (Sustainable Production Technologies of Emission Reduced Light weight Car concepts) with 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme

The coordination team  
kindly thanks:

- **SLC Sub-project & task leaders**
- **SLC consortium partners**
- **Supporting external organizations**
- **European Community**



**Thank you for your attention**