

Advanced Steel Tubular Solution for Rocker Area

**CLIFFS**

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Agenda

Background

Enhanced side protection is necessary for BEV compared to ICE

Design Details

Produce the most balanced design after multiple iterations.

Virtual Design Validations

- Component level CAE assessments
- Vehicle level CAE assessments

Prototype Build

- Tube making
- Heat treatment and laser joining

Physical Component Test

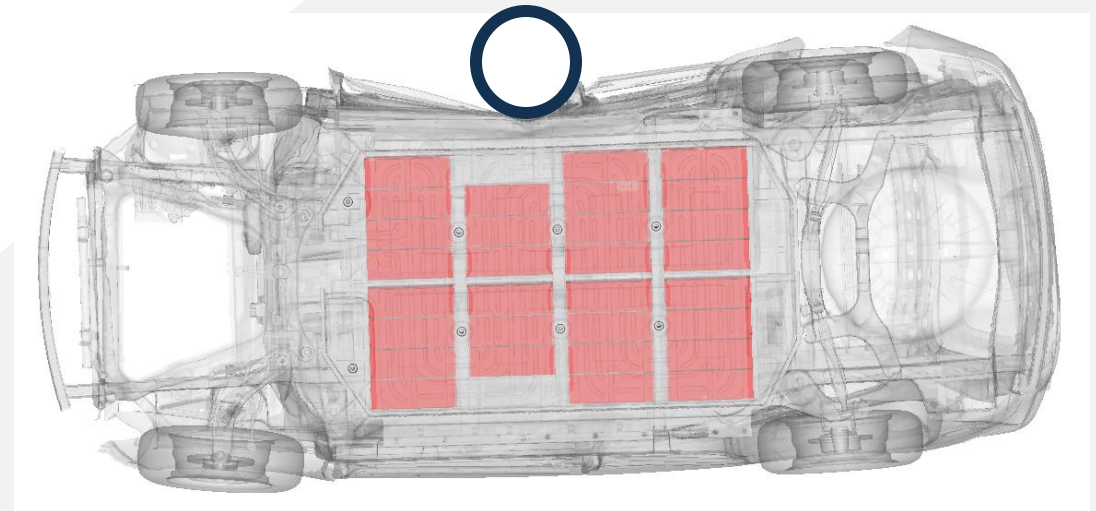
Modified three-point bending component level tests

Summary and Future Work

Vehicle level crash test

Background

- For BEVs, increased vehicle weight needs a more robust structure.
- Design of side structure needs to be efficient due to the limited lateral deformation zone.
- Long and uniform design area is ideal for roll form/tubular products.
- Tubular products demonstrates a better dimensional accuracy and manufacturing consistency especially for AHSS.



Tube Making Business Overview



Locations

- Walbridge, OH
- Columbus, IN

Tube mills:

- 11 Tubes mills
- 220K tons capacity

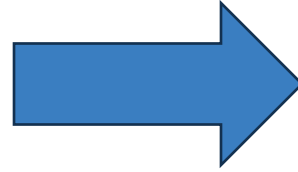
Capabilities:

- ✓ Conventional carbon grades
- ✓ Conventional stainless grades
- ✓ Advanced high strength steel
- ✓ 3rd Gen advanced high strength steels

Tube Making - Process Flow:



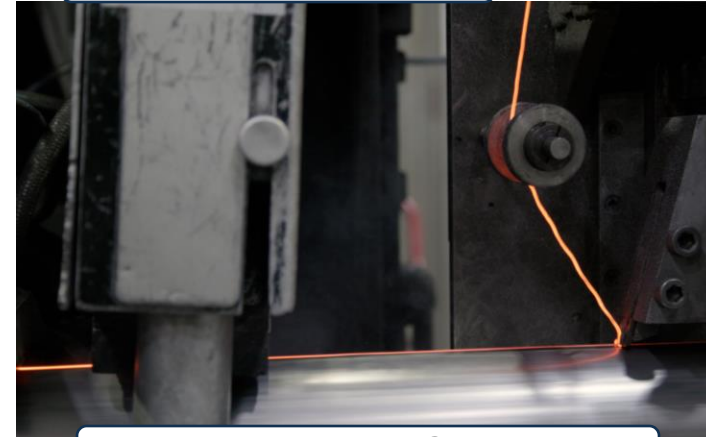
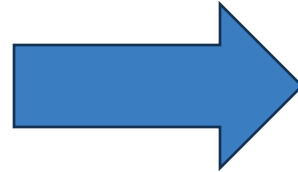
Coil Slitting



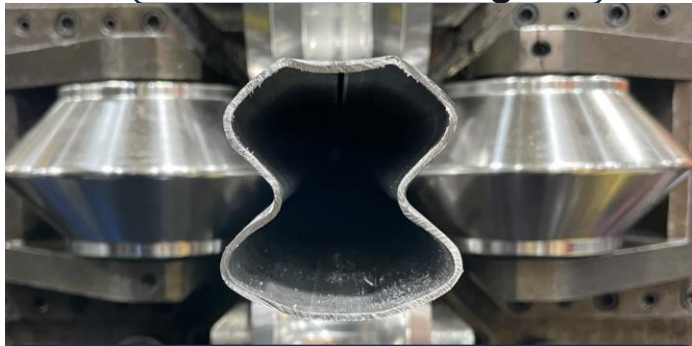
Strip Forming



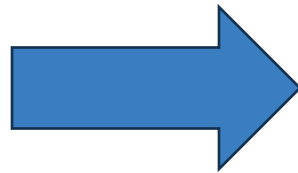
ERW Welding



Weld Bead Cutting



Final Tube Shape Rolling



Tube Laser Cutting and Piercing

Tube Making – Line-Side Quality:

Weld Validation



Cone Test



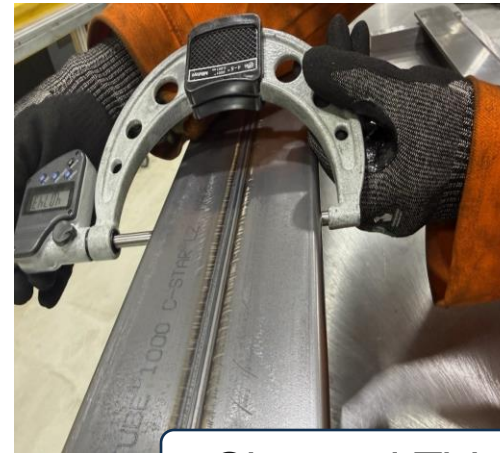
Flattening Test



Dimensional Validation



Twist Check



Size and Thickness Check

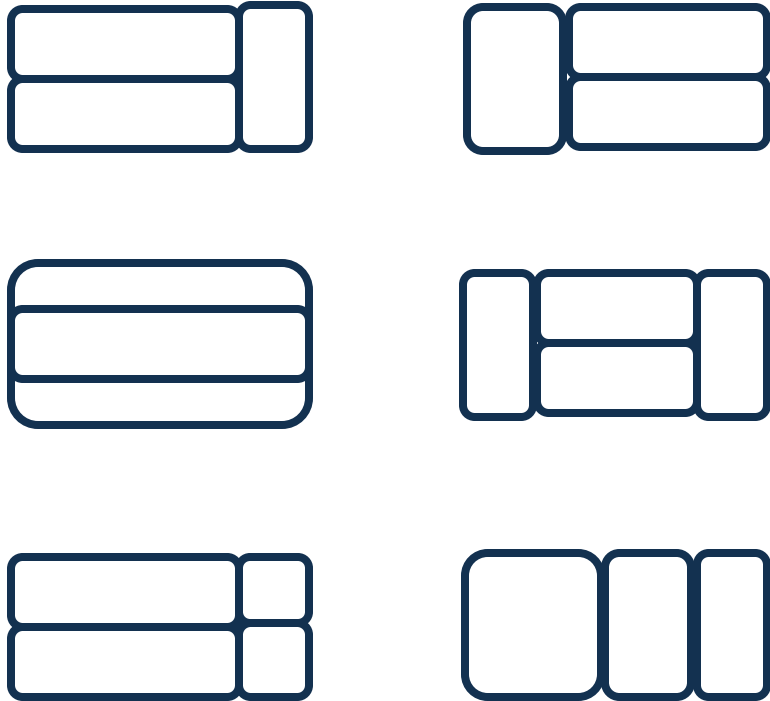
Tube Making – Final Part Validation:

Fixture Verification

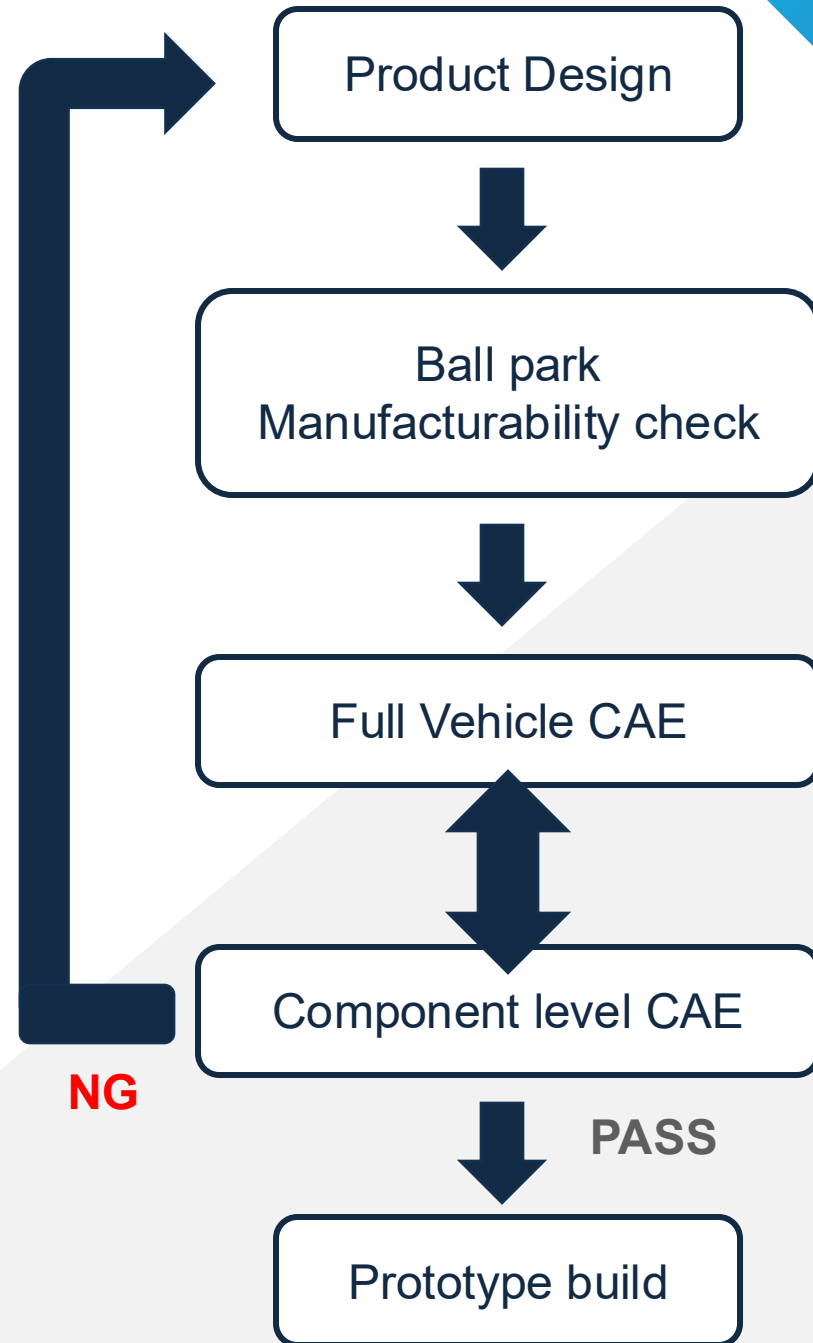


Design Details: Validation Steps

Design Profile



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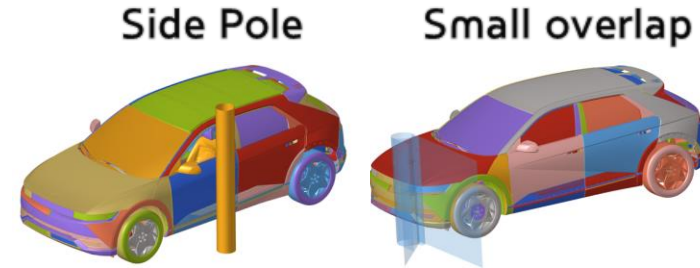
Virtual Design Validation

→ CAE Methodology and Approach

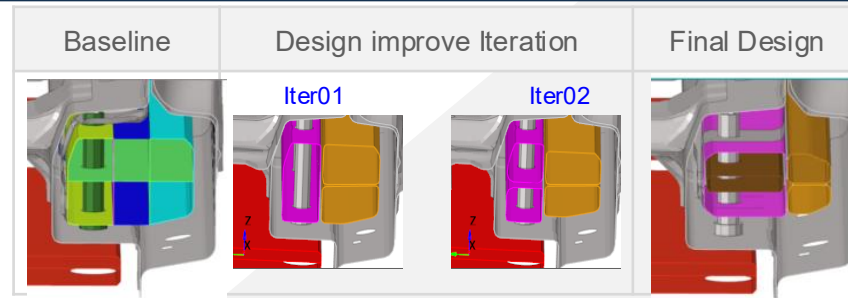
GDIS

Full Vehicle CAE

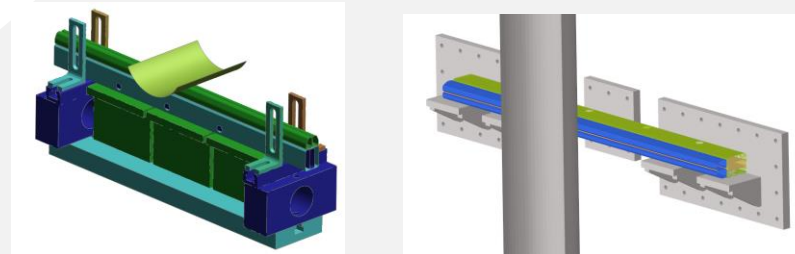
To establish baseline performance targets



Utilize Full Vehicle to improve Steel Tubular Design



Develop Component level validation to confirm structural performance
- weld strength, manufacturability check (gauge, material grade)

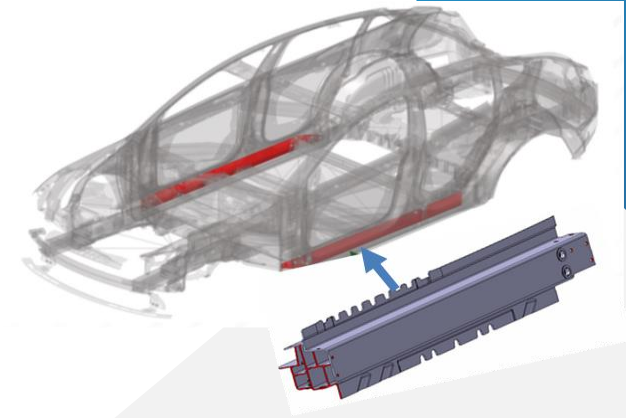


Virtual Design Validation

→ Full Vehicle Level CAE Assessments

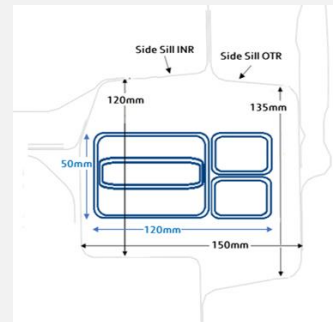
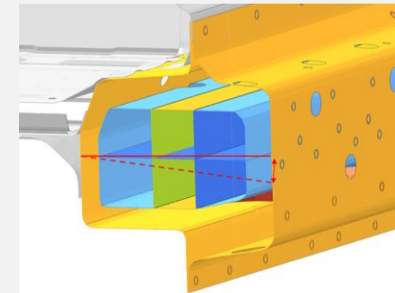
GDIS

- Full vehicle model was used to check the section forces being applied on the currently used Aluminum part during Side and Small Overlap Impact
- The behavior of the part was studied under two load cases –
 - IIHS Side Pole : [Performance check] Lateral loading conditions
 - Small Overlap Impact: [Performance check] Axial loading conditions
- Base Aluminum design used as reference point that was used to establish minimum performance targets for the Steel Tube design
- Different Steel Tube designs were considered and validated (varying number of tubes, sizing, gauge, etc.) before settling on the final design for its optimal performance and manufacturability



[AL Design]

[Final Steel Design]



Tube Design 01

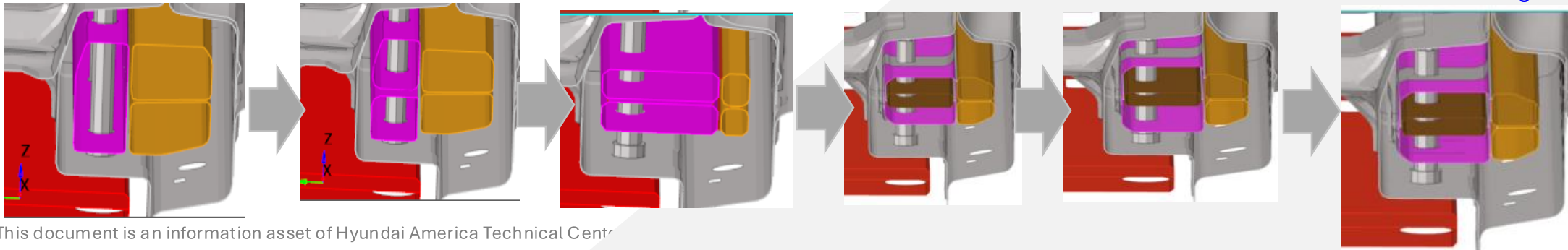
Tube Design 02

Tube Design 03

Tube Design 04

Tube Design 05

Final Design



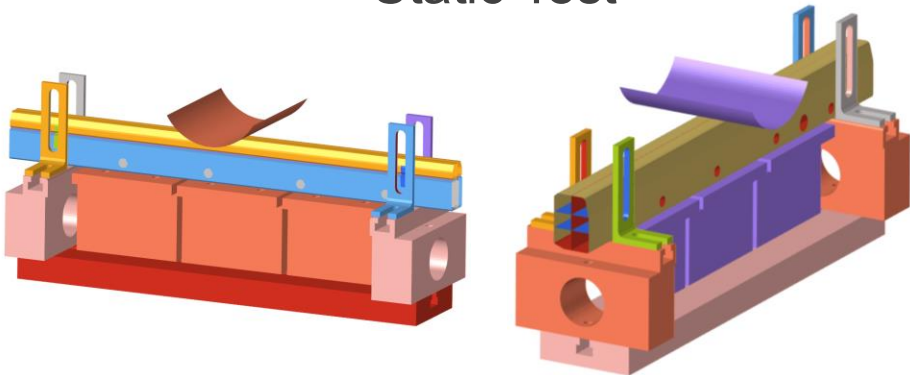
Virtual Design Validation

→ Component Level CAE Assessments

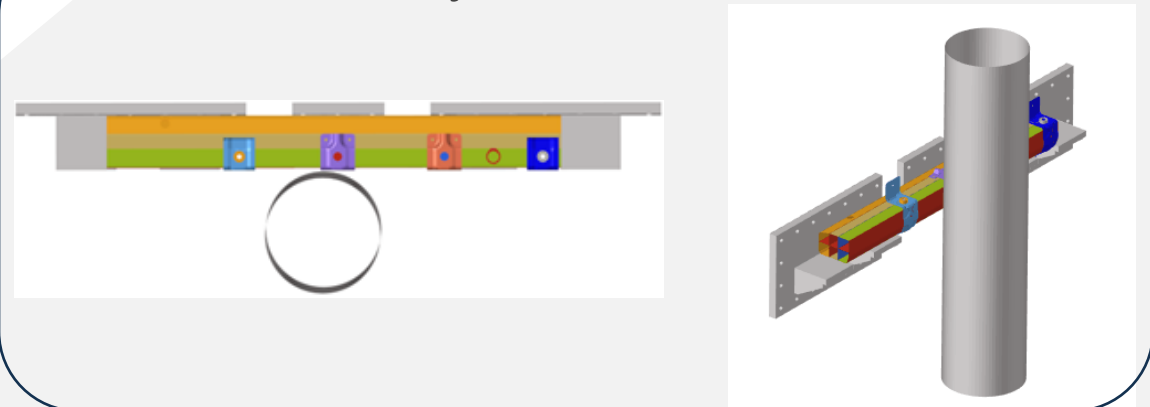
- For cost and time effective testing, Component level CAE models were developed to subject parts to the same loading conditions seen in full vehicle simulations.
- The behavior of the part was studied under two load cases:
 - Static Test: Displacement target – 90mm
 - Dynamic Test: Impact energy target – 17kJ
 - Setups were designed to ensure parts are subject to same loading conditions, deformation patterns and failure modes as seen in full vehicle simulations

Developed in collaboration with fixture fabrication teams to make sure the same fixture and loading conditions would be used for component level testing.

Static Test



Dynamic Test



Virtual Design Validation

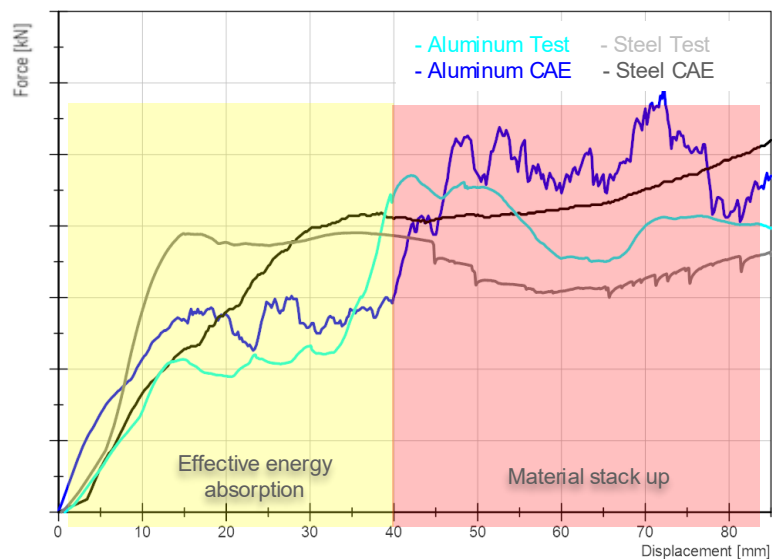
→ Static Test and CAE Results Comparison

- ✓ Location and mode of deformation is the same in both CAE and testing
- ✓ Steel part shows improved response and energy absorption in the first 40mm of applied deformation

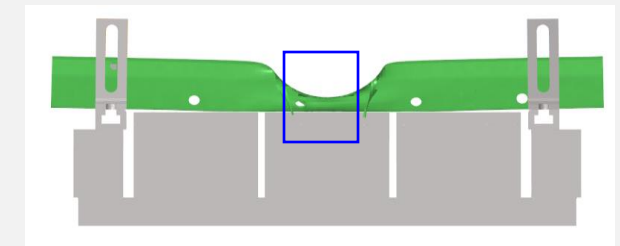
Load Case:

| # | Material | Max Force(kN) | Max Displacement (mm) | Observations |
|------|----------|---------------|-----------------------|--|
| Test | Aluminum | 231 | 90 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Results correlate with CAE ✓ Steel part shows improved response before ~40mm ✓ CAE shows slightly stiffer response |
| | Steel | 194 | | |
| CAE | Aluminum | 300 | | |
| | Steel | 261 | | |

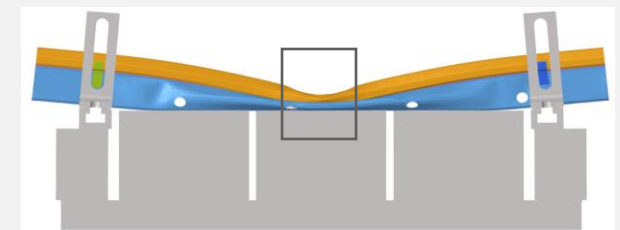
Force-Displacement Curve:



Deformation of Aluminum Part in Test:



Deformation of Steel Part in Test:



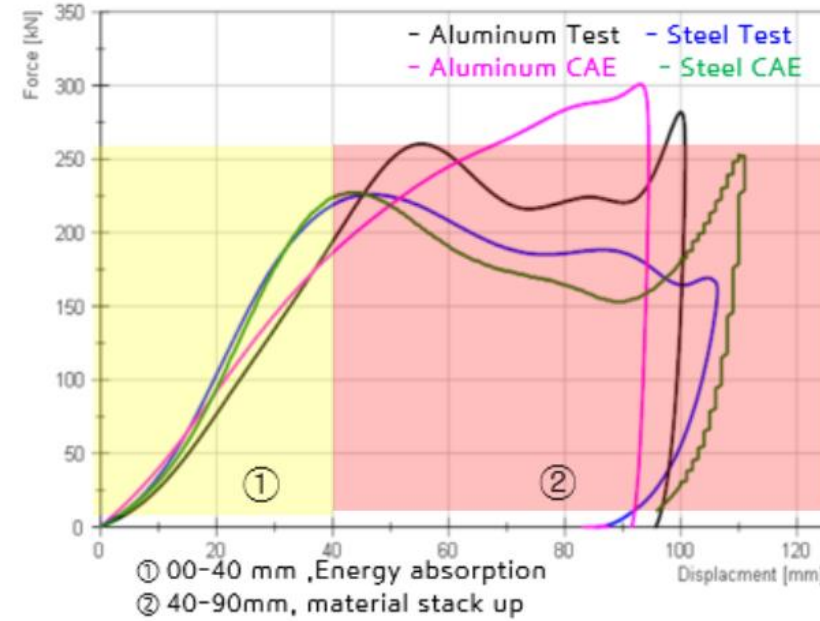
Virtual Design Validation

→ Dynamic Test and CAE Results Comparison

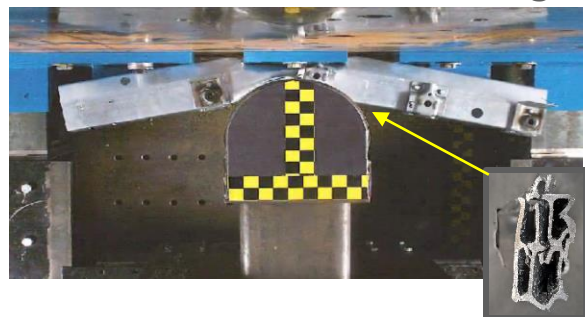
- ✓ Steel Design shows similar performance to Aluminum
- ✓ CAE shows stiffer response compared to tests

Load Case:

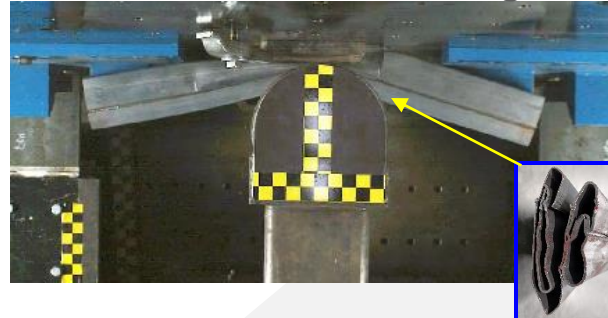
| Mat | # | Peak Force [at~40mm] (kN) | Max Disp (mm) | Impactor Energy (kJ) | Energy Absorbed (kJ) |
|----------|--------|---------------------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Aluminum | Test 1 | 260 | 101 | 17.10 | 16.8 |
| | Test 2 | 252 | 100 | 17.49 | 17 |
| | CAE | 240 | 92 | 17.2 | 17 |
| Steel | Test 1 | 176 | 108 | 17.2 | 16.2 |
| | Test 2 | 226 | 105 | 17.32 | 16.8 |
| | Test 3 | 195 | 107 | 17.17 | 16.5 |
| | Test 4 | 205 | 114 | 17.04 | 16.7 |
| | CAE | 206 | 111 | 17.2 | 16.9 |



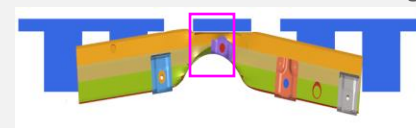
Aluminum Test: Deformed Image



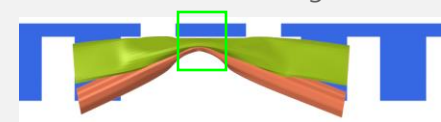
Steel Test: Deformed Image



Aluminum CAE: Deformed Image



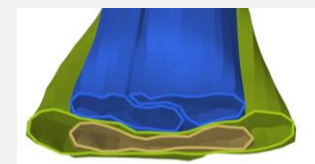
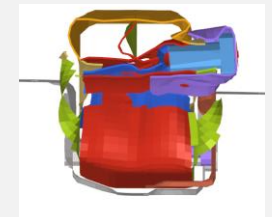
Steel CAE: Deformed Image



→ Test vs CAE Cross Section View



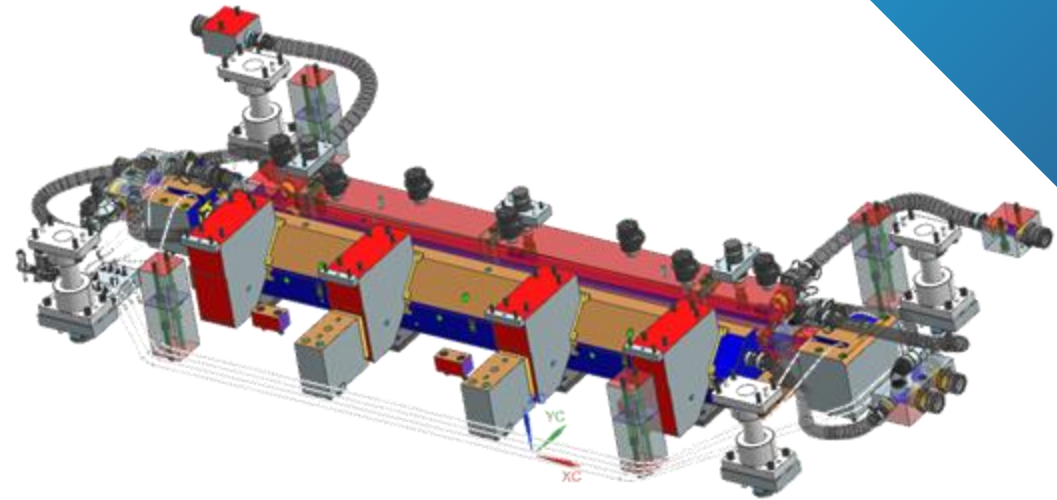
→ Test vs CAE Cross Section View



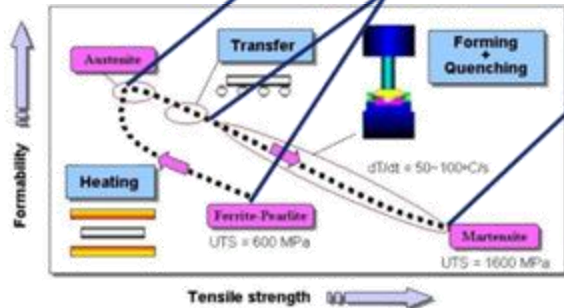
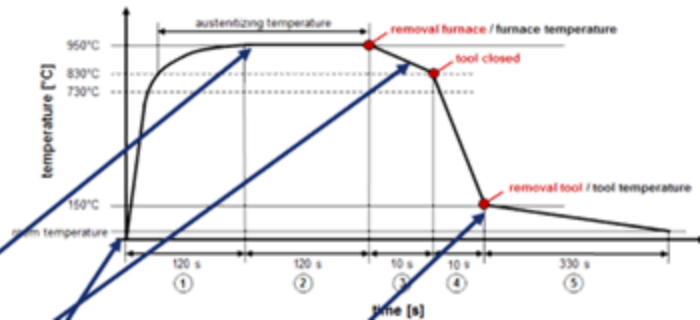
Prototyping and Manufacturing PHS Quench Process OP1

GDIS

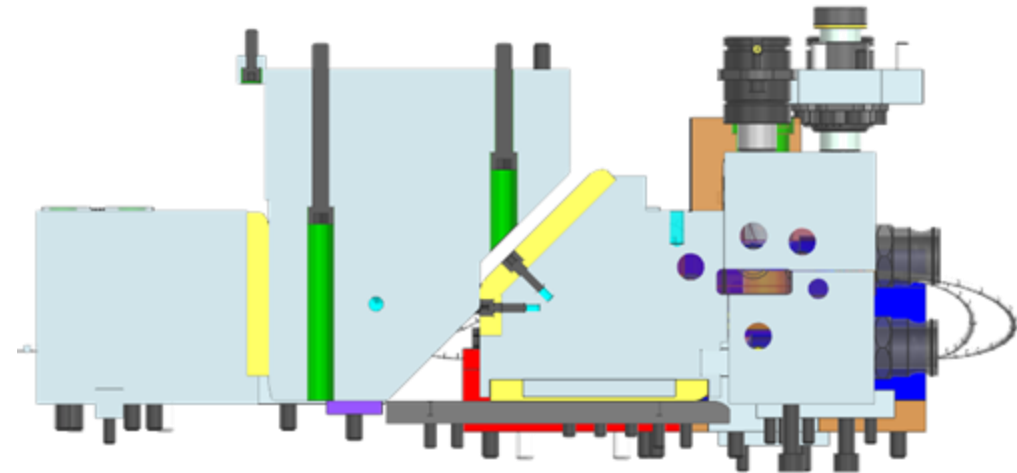
- Station 1: Robotic Load – Incoming tube to Oven
- Station 2: Oven Heating Phase @ 950°C
- Station 3: Robotic Transfer/Dropoff to Quench Tool
(Part Temp tool close @ 770°C -830°C)
- Station 4: Quench Process – Critical Cooling Rate -30°C/sec
- Station 5: Robotic Unload/Stack



Temp / Time Graph

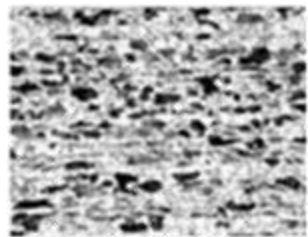
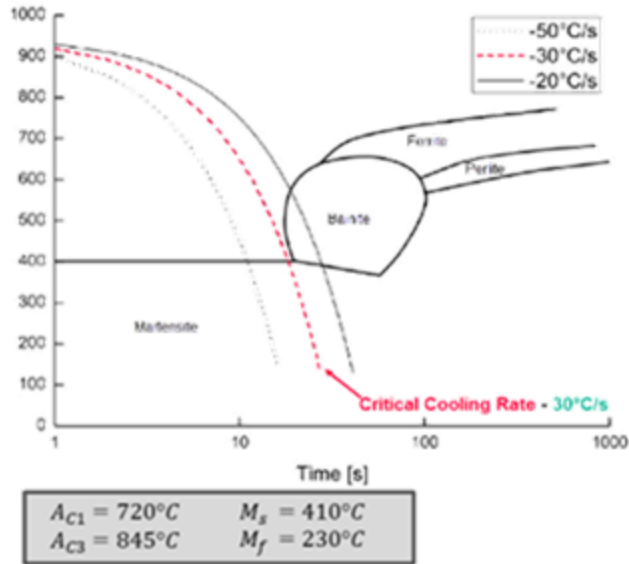


Phase Changes
Of The Steel

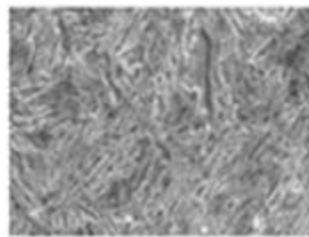


Prototyping and Manufacturing PHS Quench Results

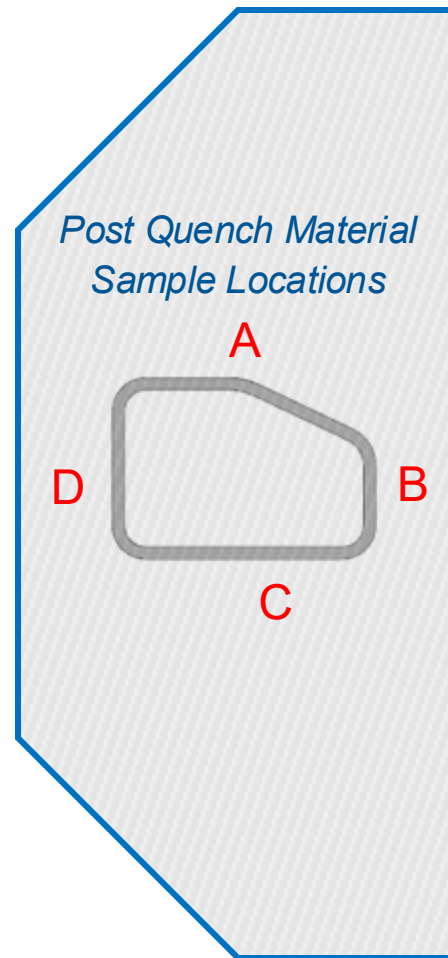
TTT-Curve for 22MnB5



Delivery Condition*
Perlite/Ferrite



Final State*
Martensite

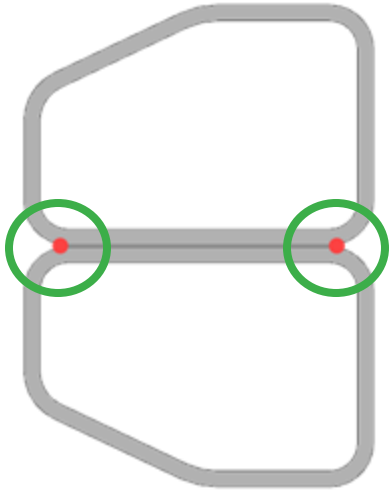


Post Quench Material Property Results

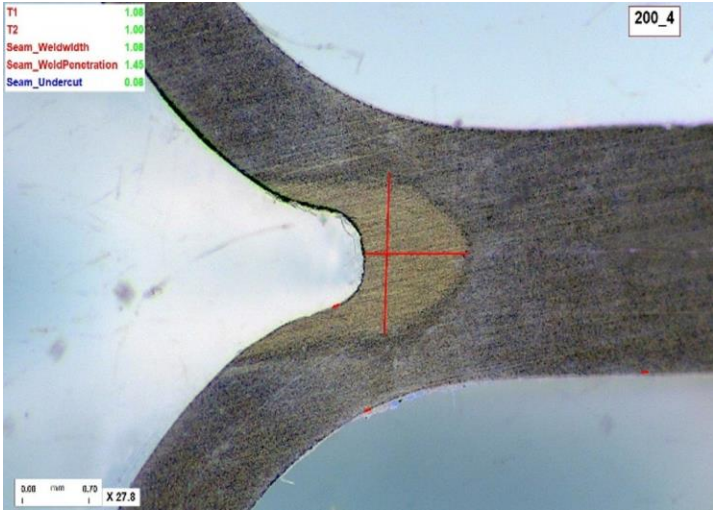
| MECHANICAL PROPERTIES | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|-----------------------|----------|----------|------|---|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Part Number | | Vickers Hardness (HV) | | | HRC | Ultimate Tensile Strength (1300-1650 Mpa) | Elongation (%) | Yield Strength (950-1250 Mpa) |
| | | Area 1 | | | | | | |
| | | Indent 1 | Indent 2 | Indent 3 | | | | |
| SIDE A | LEFT | 425 | 424 | 437 | 41.5 | 1414.1 | 7.7 | 1092.1 |
| | MIDDLE | 460 | 443 | 428 | 45.4 | 1413.2 | 6.4 | 1047.4 |
| | RIGHT | 463 | 470 | 446 | 42.3 | 1441.7 | 6.0 | 1048.1 |
| SIDE B | LEFT | 462 | 460 | 460 | 44.5 | 1452.3 | 5.6 | 1129.0 |
| | MIDDLE | 471 | 473 | 473 | 43.6 | 1451.5 | 6.9 | 1200.2 |
| | RIGHT | 476 | 490 | 460 | 44.1 | 1468.8 | 6.7 | 1185.0 |
| SIDE C | LEFT | 483 | 492 | 468 | 41.2 | 1436.6 | 6.2 | 1159.4 |
| | MIDDLE | 460 | 468 | 471 | 46.6 | 1406.6 | 6.1 | 1088.3 |
| | RIGHT | 447 | 446 | 438 | 41.5 | 1429.5 | 6.1 | 1235.3 |
| SIDE D | LEFT | 451 | 435 | 427 | 44.3 | 1422.9 | 5.9 | 1133.8 |
| | MIDDLE | 466 | 471 | 490 | 42.0 | 1454.0 | 7.8 | 1208.3 |
| | RIGHT | 471 | 470 | 443 | 43.1 | 1444.6 | 6.1 | 1136.4 |

Prototyping and Manufacturing Assembly Process OP2

*Post Quench Operation
Laser Seam Weld Side Impact tubes
1910mm length of weld x 2
Non-Contact Laser Weld System
Seam Tracker System ensures uniform penetration*

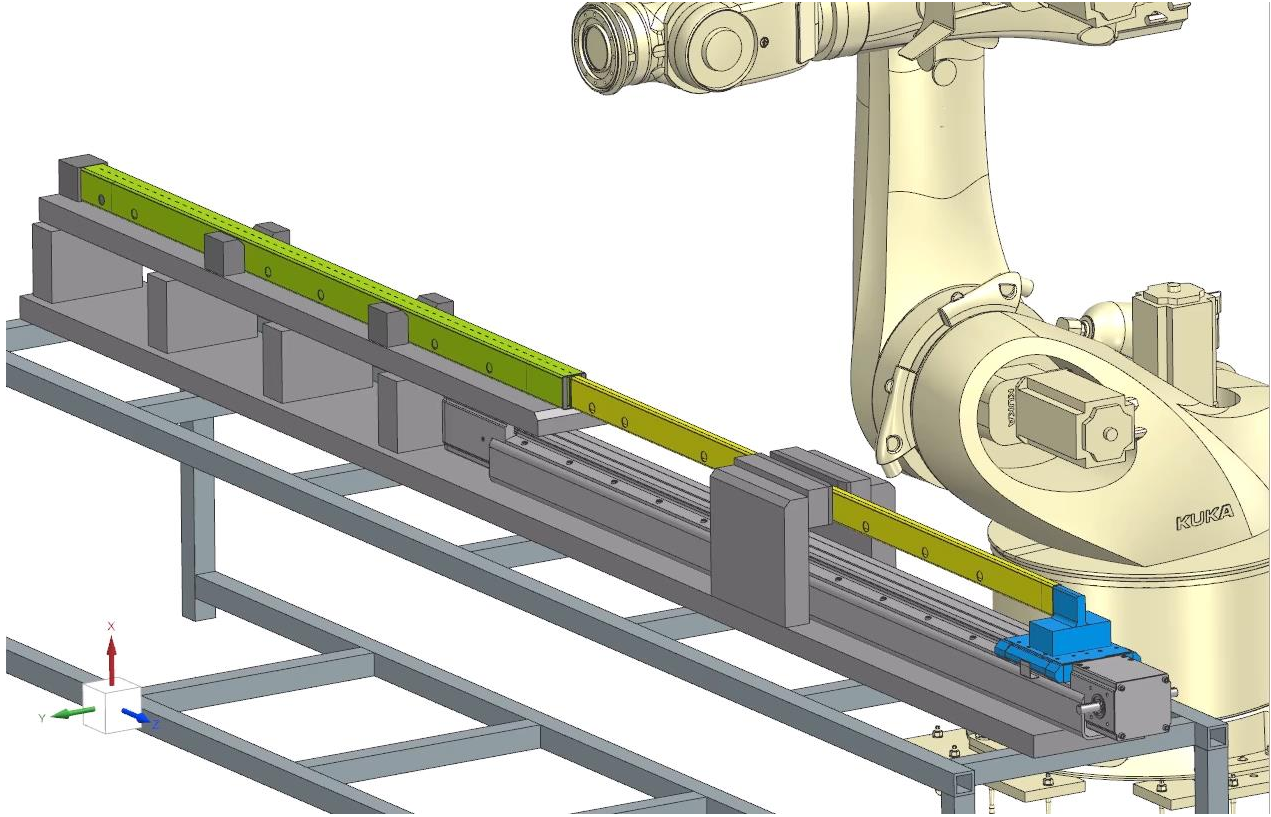
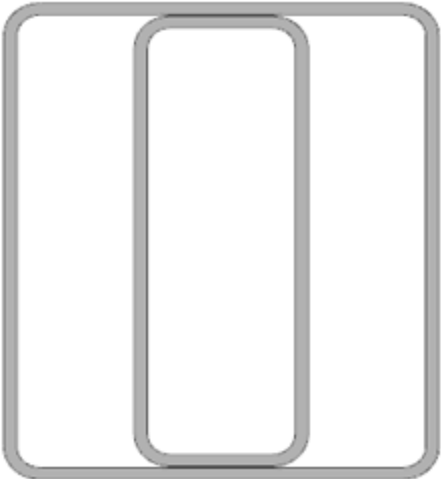
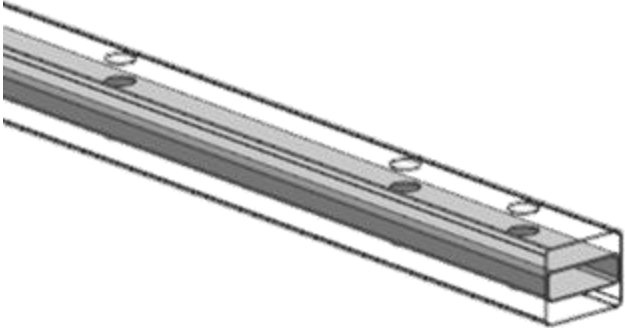


*Post Laser Weld
Cross Sectional Weld Inspection*



Prototyping and Manufacturing Assembly Process OP3

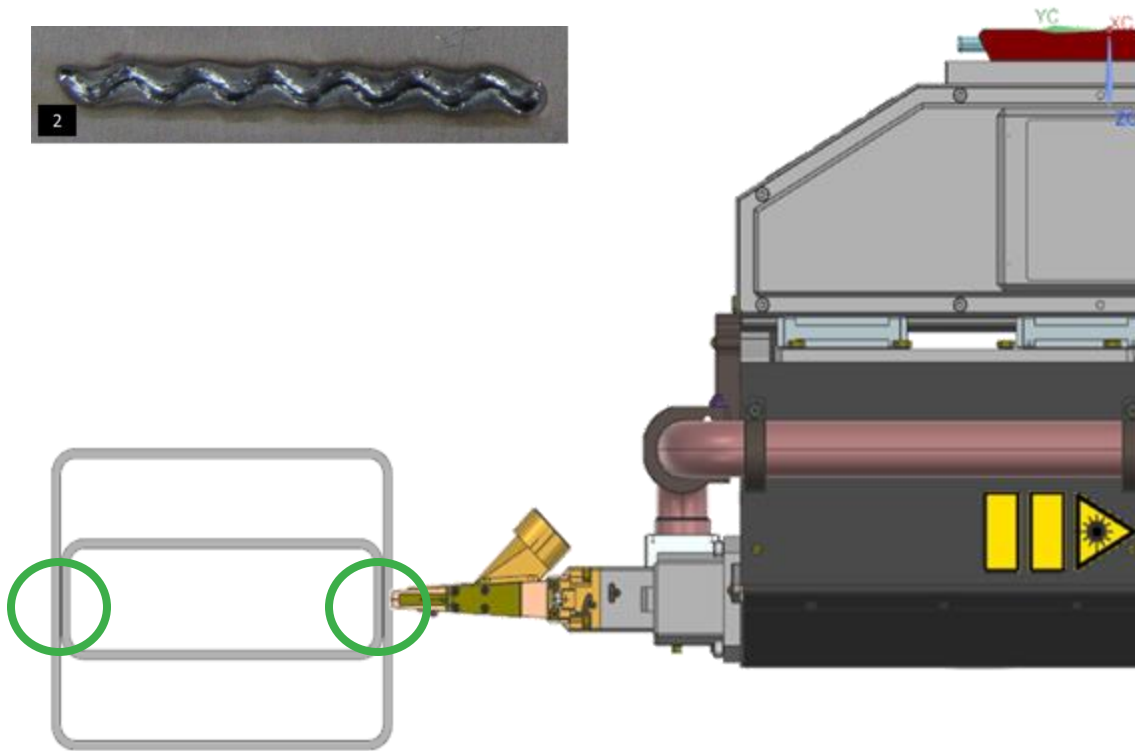
*Post Quench Operation
Linear Tube Insertion/Assembly
Linear Actuator with Int/Ext guidance*



Prototyping and Manufacturing Assembly Process OP4

*Post Quench Operation
Laser Stitch Weld Inner to Outer Tube
LSS Weld Application*

Variable Frequency/Modulation provides adjustability of weld profile/penetration



33

| Measure | Min | Max | Value |
|--------------------|------|------|-------|
| T1 | 0 | - | 1.42 |
| T2 | 0 | - | 1.23 |
| Stitch_WeldWidth | 1.11 | - | 2.2 |
| Stitch_SurfaceCon | 0 | 0.43 | 0.14 |
| Stitch_RootConca | 0 | 0.37 | 0.03 |
| Stitch_Gap | 0 | - | 0.01 |
| Stitch_Penetration | 0.37 | - | 1.2 |

Porosities ○

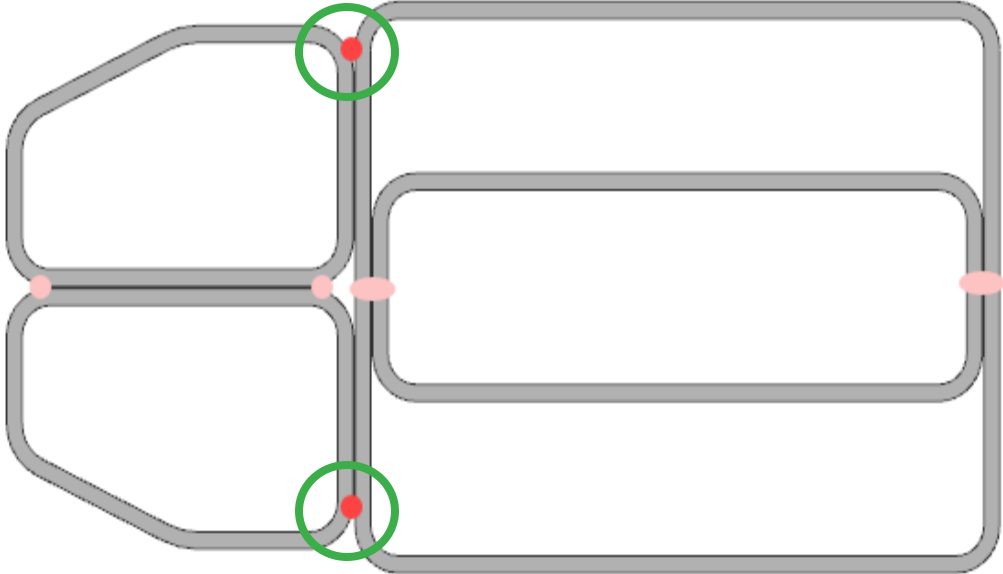
Cracks ○

Other ○

OK

Prototyping and Manufacturing Assembly Process OP5

*Post Quench Operation
Laser Seam Weld
Inner Sub Assembly to Outer Sub Assembly*

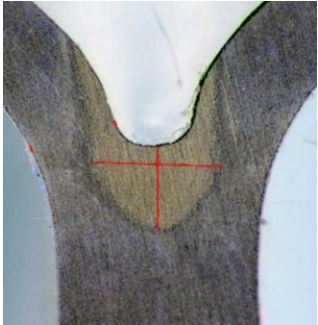


Prototyping and Manufacturing Inspection Process

Post Assembly Weld Validation

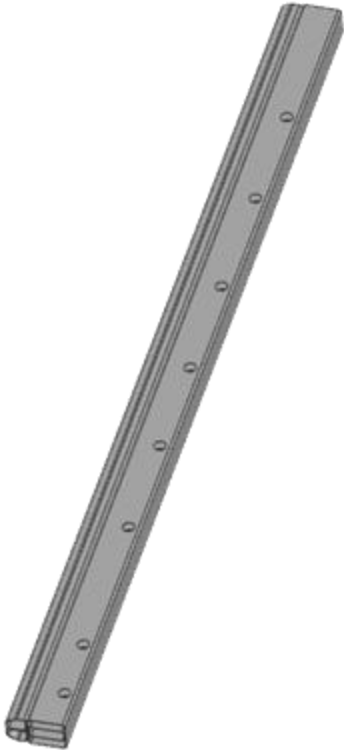


Laser Seam Stepper Weld
Ultrasonic NDT /
Microscopic Cut/Etch



Laser Seam Stepper Weld
Metallurgical Stereoscope
Microscopic Cut/Etch

Post Assembly Dimensional Validation



Optical CMM Scanner

Performance



Weight



Manufacturability



Sustainability



Acknowledgments & Contact information

GDIS

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John Makrygiannis
Jimmy Zhang
Yu-Wei Wang
Scott Stevens
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