

Media release

Gurit announces sponsorship of the EPFLoop team in the 2019 Hyperloop Pod Competition

Zurich, April 16, 2019, Gurit, a leading global producer and supplier of advanced composite materials announces that it is a **major sponsor of the EPFLoop students team that will be competing in the 2019 SpaceX Hyperloop Pod Competition.**

The competition's goal is to support the development of functional prototypes and encourage innovation by challenging student teams to design and build high-speed ground transport pods. First announced in 2015, this year's Hyperloop Pod Competition will take place on July 21, 2019 at the SpaceX headquarters in Hawthorne, California.

For this competition student teams from around the world have submitted their design to *SpaceX* and *The Boring Company* for judging. Behind the EPFLoop is a team of students of the *Swiss Federal Institute of Technology* (EPFL) based in Lausanne, Switzerland. The EPFLoop Pod has been qualified to advance through to the build phase where the team is currently constructing the innovative pod using Gurit's lightweight materials. The competition will culminate on July 21, 2019 where the pods will be judged solely on one criteria, maximum speed with successful deceleration. Therefore minimising weight is a crucial success factor. This is where the benefits of advanced lightweight composite materials are significant.

Lorenzo Benedetti, team Leader of EPFLoop states: "Since the first contact back in October 2018, Gurit has been a strategic partner of the EPFLoop team. In a constant research of performance, our engineering students strived to create a structure for the prototype which is capable of resisting extreme accelerations and intense vibrations and, still, being the lightest possible. We had a very fruitful discussion with Gurit's engineers, in particular Luke McEwen. Together, we analyzed step by step our structure and optimized the use of the prepreg carbon fiber material. The products identified as suitable for our case were the biaxial prepreps XC411 and RC200, whereas for the sandwich construction the M80 and M200 foams. After the design review, the final prototype structure reduced substantially its weight, down to one third from the EPFLoop prototype of 2018, while maintaining the safety level required by SpaceX."

The EPFLoop team has been ranked as one of the top three teams in the world in the 2018 competition. This team of enthusiastic and motivated engineers strives to push the boundaries in terms of innovative pod design and construction and gives a glimpse of what the future of transportation may look like. Gurit is delighted to be part of this effort.

Links:

Gurit composite material offerings: www.gurit.com

EPFLoop team: <https://epfloop.ch>

SpaceX Hyperloop: <https://www.spacex.com/hyperloop>

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About Gurit:

GURIT is specialized on the development and manufacture of advanced composite materials, related technologies and select finished parts and components. The comprehensive product range comprises fibre reinforced prepregs, structural core products, gel coats, adhesives, resins and consumables. Gurit supplies global growth markets with composite materials on the one hand and composite tooling equipment, core material wind turbine blade kits, structural engineering and select finished parts on the other. Gurit operates production sites and offices in Canada, China, Denmark, Ecuador, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, India, Italy, New Zealand, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States. For more information:

Gurit Advanced Composite Solutions: <http://www.gurit.com/Our-Business>

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Pictures available:



EPFLoop team with the 2018 carbon fibre pod for minimal weight



EPFLoop team visiting Gurit's engineering team (from left to right, Zsófia Sajó, Lorenzo Benedetti, Luke Mcewen, Martin Seydoux)



EPFLoop team with their 2018 prototype pod



SpaceX headquarters in Hawthorne, California where the Hyperloop pod competition is set to take place on July 21, 2019.

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Download link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/s7xzzjl6vc1g441/AAC72av5WuWBFI6TQbSo7qlxa?dl=0>