



Textile **Futures**

Textile Innovation Programme

3D Weaving/Composites



Project Part-Financed
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Background



- o Initial Feasibility Study with AMRC to develop aerospace component successful
- o Confusing picture regarding the 'state of the art' with 3D – highly secretive sector
- o FP6 project 'MOJO' and work at Ulster University with Shorts (Aircraft Mnfr.) identified
- o TIP Feasibility Study with Antich & Sons, Horizon Composites, AMRC and Griffith Textile Machines completed
- o High level of interest in potential of Yorkshire Weaving/Composite companies from aerospace/space companies – significant potential for collaborative R&D
- o Intellectual Property issues need to be addressed 'up front'



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Current Situation

- o Strong collaborative partnership Weaving/Composites developing
- o Detailed proposal received for design and build of prototype 3D machine following TIP Feasibility Study
- o Build proposal includes purchase of certain 'standard' capital equipment items (creel, jacquard, take-up, weft pre-feed and insertion)
- o Build proposal also includes design and development of new components (loom bed with gantry, end closure system, control systems and software)
- o Tenders prepared and published in EU 'Official Journal'



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Issues

- o Further work required to identify current 'state of the art' – dialogue with Ulster University (if possible)
- o Evaluate specific future market potential
- o Develop regional capacity for handling specific R&D assignments
- o Ascertain versatility of proposed equipment (range of sizes and shapes/components)
- o Arrange for 'staged payments' for development work relating to equipment specifications



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