IMPROVED COMPOSITE MATERIALS FOR OCEAN ENERGY DEVICES

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ETIPOCEAN

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Nano-enhanced composites development for enhanced fatigue and impact resistance

OBJECTIVES :

- enhance blade material performances
  - improve the fatigue and impact resistance

- Use of nano-particules to reinforce the composite materials

- The blade is made of :
  - RESIN : vinyl ester resin
  - FABRICS : glass fabrics

- DISPERSION of the nano-particules inside the resin before manufacturing the composite blades

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Nano-enhanced composites

Different fillers and different concentration were selected

- Carbon Nanotubes (CNT)
- Impact modifiers

- A true dispersion = homogeneous and stable of the nanoparticles in the resin is required to reinforce the matrix against cohesive failure of the composite
- Use of three rolls mill or cold twin screw extruder (= high shear device) to perform the dispersion at high concentration before dilution by conventional stirring

Commercial pellets (25wt% of CNT inside matrix)

Dispersion of the CNT inside NEMMO resin at 2,5wt% using three rolls mill

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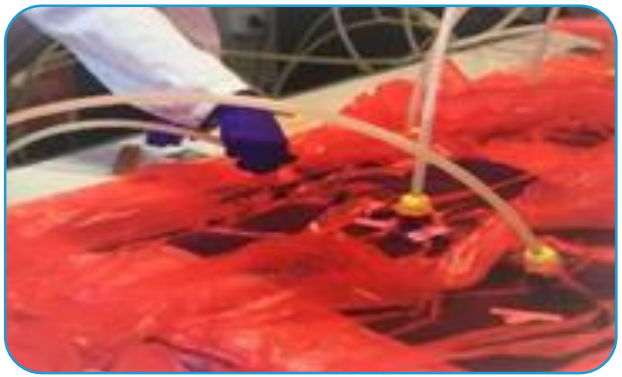
Infusion process

Conventional method to manufacture blade is INFUSION

Evaluation of the different fillers at different concentrations on infused composite plates



For each fillers and each concentration, 4 plates are infused for characterizations

→ 17 formulations were mechanically characterized

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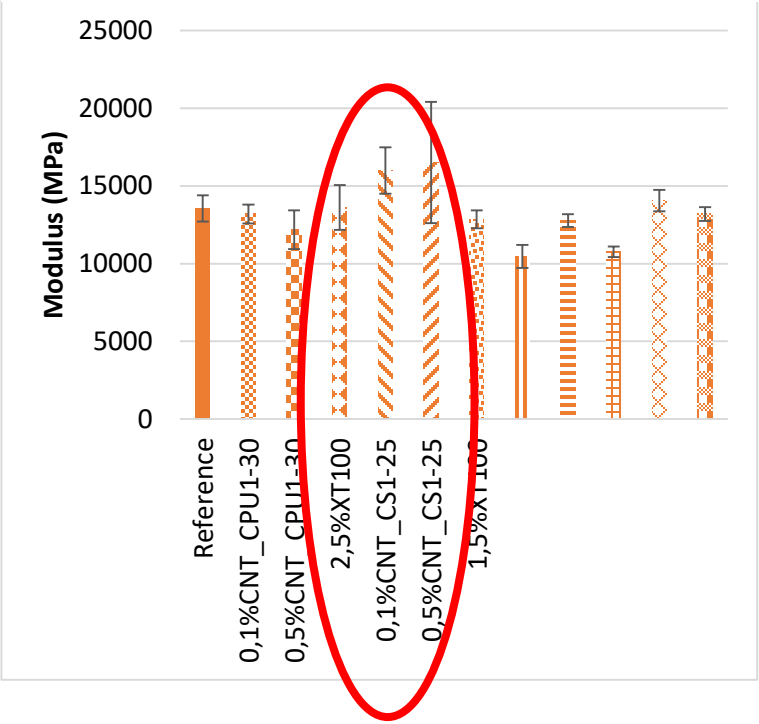
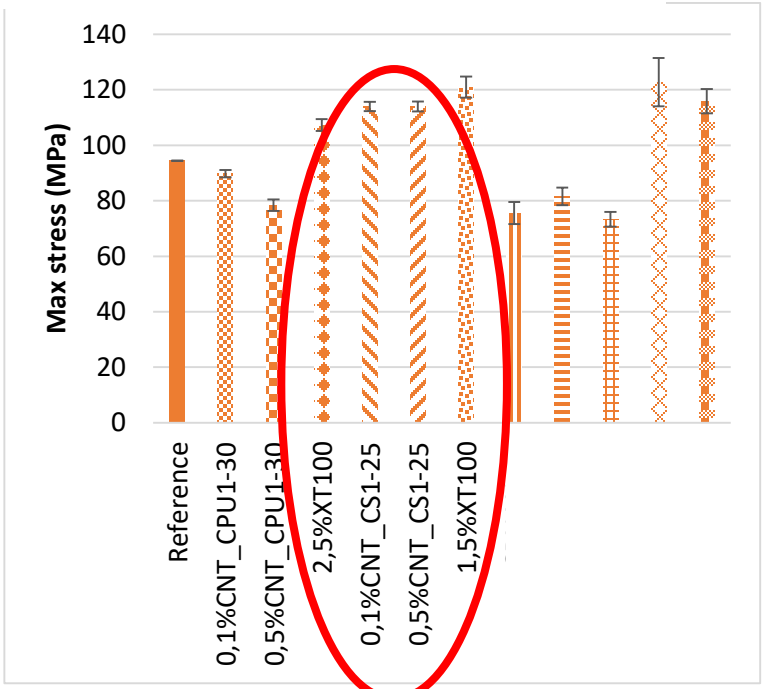
Mechanical characterization of the in-plane laminates properties

Traction with fibers at 0° and 90°

- Mechanical behaviour (Modulus and Maximum stress) in fibers direction and in transverse direction not influenced by the matrix formulation

Traction with fibers at +/-45°





- Best results obtained with XT100 = impact modifier, CNT_CS1-25 (Modulus + Max stress)

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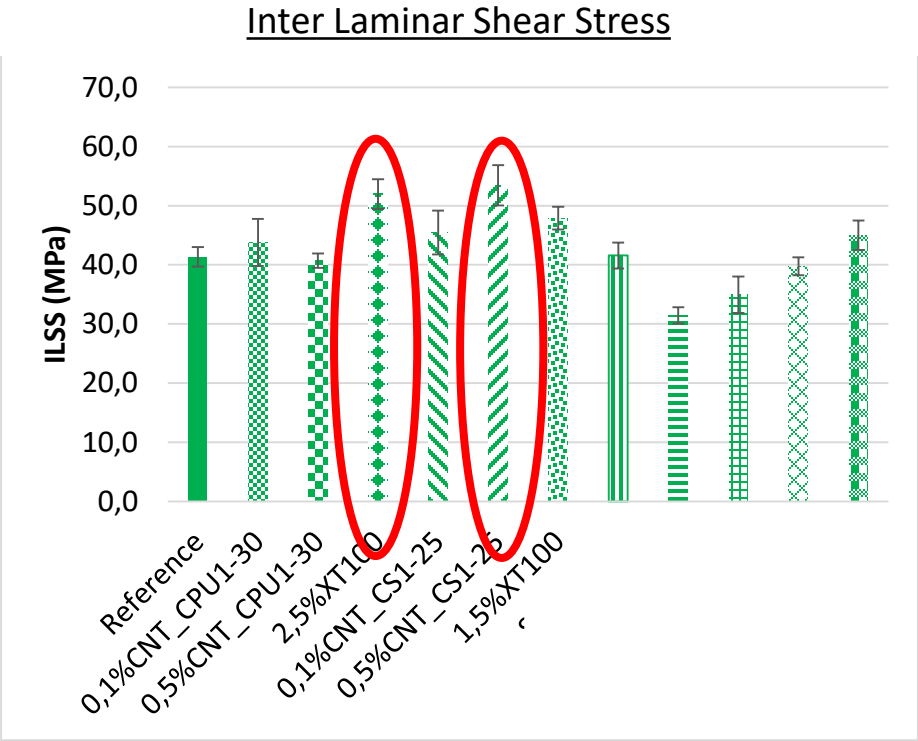
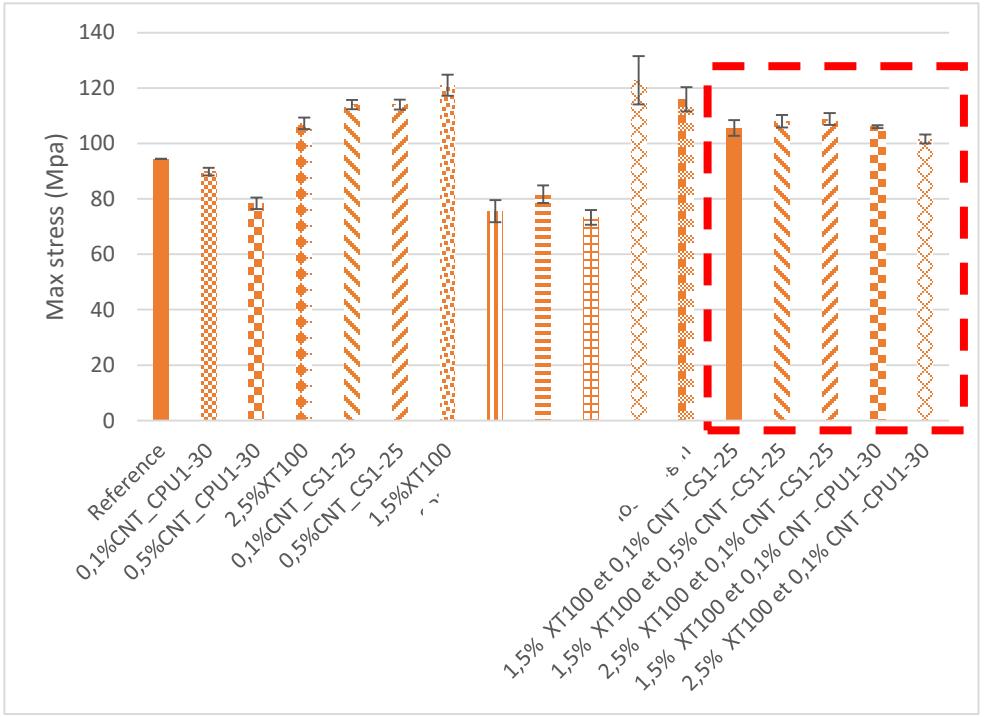
Mechanical characterization: ILSS



- 25% improvement in ILSS for both 2.5% impact modifier XT100 and 0.5% CNT_CS1-25 formulations

Synergetic effects ?

➢ Trials to mix the fillers : impact modifier and carbon nanotubes to observe synergetic effects



➢ No significant improvement of mechanical behaviour in traction at +/-45°

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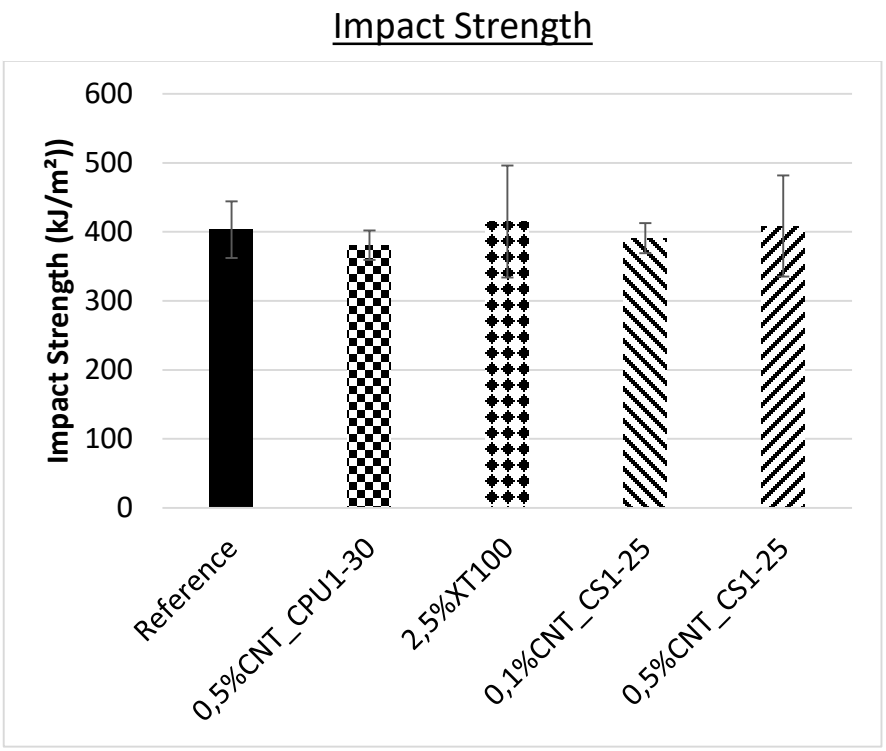
Mechanical characterization: impact strength



No significant improvement of the matrix formulation in impact strength

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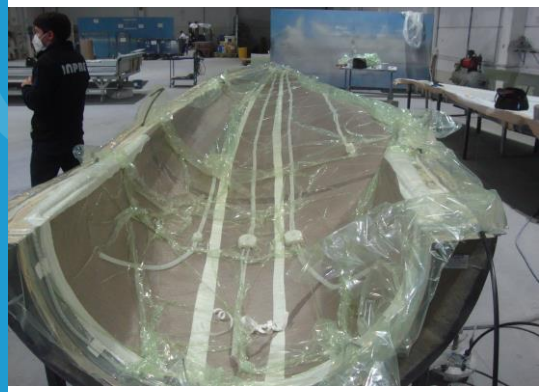
Perspectives

- Based on these results, 2 formulations were selected for manufacturing the full scale blades by NEMMO partner INPRE:
  - 0.5%wt Carbon Nanotubes dispersed inside the resin
  - 2.5%wt impact modifier dispersed inside the resin



Infusion of half blade using impact modifier reinforced matrix

✓ No dry zone

✓ No filtration of the fillers

Reinforced blade to be installed and tested in real sea conditions

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Thank you for your attention!

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