



U.S. ARMY  
**RDECOM**

# Molecular Design of Composite Constituents



Enterprise for Multi-scale  
Research of Materials

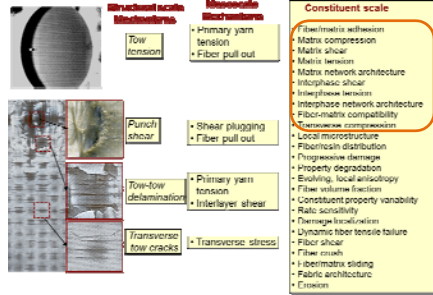
Cameron Abrams and Giuseppe Palmese (Drexel); Sanjib Chowdhury, Bazle Haque and Jack Gillespie (UDel);  
Tim Sirk, Jan Andzelm, Robert Elder, Tanya Chantawansri, Joe Lenhart, Danny O'Brien (Army Research Laboratory)

## How We Fit

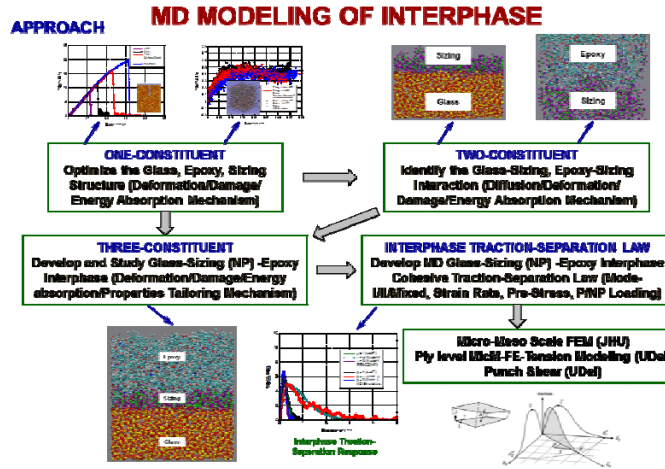
Materials-by-Design  
Process



Mechanism-based  
Approach



## Technical Approach



## Key Accomplishments

- **New Energy Absorbing Epoxies**
- **MD Prediction of Interphase Traction laws for Bridging Length Scales**
- **Prediction of Glass Fiber HSR Properties**
- **Materials by Design Framework Established**

## Future Directions

- **Advance MD models for three constituents**
- **Optimize interphase properties**
- **Validate predictions through canonical testing**

## Impact

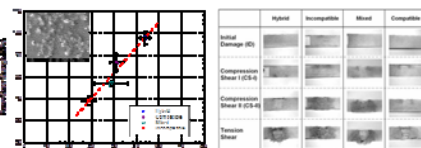
- **New energy absorbing mechanisms**
- **New light weight protection materials**
- **Validated multi-scale models for Design of Next Generation Soldier Systems**

## Goals and Motivation

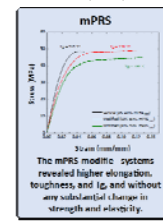
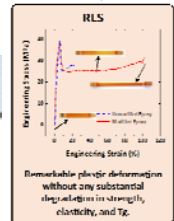
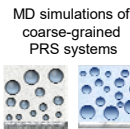
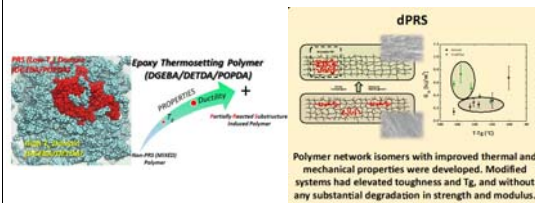
- **Model and control high strain rate mixed-mode traction-separation laws for glass fiber/epoxy interphases**
- **Develop a 'Materials-By-Design' methodology to bridge length scales from Molecular Dynamics (MD) into finite element (FE) (potential based cohesive modeling)**
- **Advance basic understanding of:**
  - load transfer within interphase under HSR
  - role of sizing and resin chemistry
  - energy absorbing mechanisms from nanometer to micron length scales

Interphase Composition

Interphase Design Improves Strength and Energy Absorption in Composition

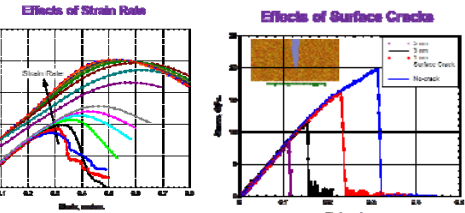


## MD Epoxy: New Energy Absorption Mechanisms



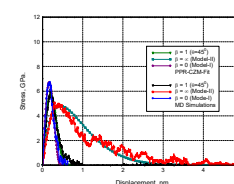
## Major Results

### MD Glass Fiber: Prediction of High Strain Rate Properties

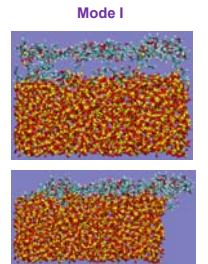


### MD Interphase Design: Prediction of Traction Laws for Bridging Length Scales

#### Mixed Mode Potential Based Cohesive Zone Model



Code implementation include load/unloading capability



**CMEDE**

CENTER FOR  
MATERIALS IN EXTREME  
DYNAMIC ENVIRONMENTS

