MECHANICAL TESTING SERVICES

The Center for Composite Materials provides composite mechanical testing services to customers across the aerospace, automotive, infrastructure, manufacturing, medical, and materials industries with our world-leading facilities and experts. Testing services range from composite building blocks (fibers, resins, sizings, adhesives, and core materials) to thermoset and thermoplastic composites laminates, sub-components and full-scale components based on ASTM, SACMA or other composite industry standards. We also provide expertise and develop test methods for non-standard materials, geometries and configurations, as well as thermo-mechanical and cyclic loading tests. In parallel, we provide quality assessment services including non-destructive evaluation of samples, fiber volume fraction, void content, and optical microscopy and X-ray computer tomography (CT).

Mechanical Testing Capabilities

- High performance fiber tension and compression (filament level), sizing assessment (micro-droplet, fiber fragmentation) and polymer thermo-mechanical characterization.
- Tension and all varieties of compression tests, poisson's ratio, bearing, damage tolerance, compression after impact, v-notch shear/rail shear, lap shear, short beam shear, floating roller peel, climbing drum peel, etc.
- Elevated/Low Temperature Chamber for thermo-mechanical properties;
- Environmental Simulation/Conditioning for moisture and UV exposure;
- Large-scale drop tower for full-scale impact and damage tolerance tests;
- Test matrices to populate Finite Element Material Models for composites.
- Non-standard testing services developing test methods for subcomponent, component and full assembly structures, sensors and data acquisition systems, data reduction methods, and test reports.





MECHANICAL TESTING SERVICES

Equipment

Impact Towers

Dynatup 8250 Instrumented Impact Tester

Impact Energy: 0.6 to 303 Joules (gravity driven) Impact Velocity: 1 to 3.66 m/sec (gravity driven)

Load Range: up to 400 N

Dynatup 8000 Instrumented Impact Tester

Impact Energy: 2150 Joules (gravity driven) Impact Velocity: 1 to 5.2 m/sec (gravity driven)

Load Range: up to 1550 N

Full-Scale High-Energy Drop Tower

Impact Energy: 40000 Joules (gravity driven) Impact Velocity: 1 to 9 m/sec (gravity driven)

Load Range: up to 10000 N

Dynamic Loading Test Frames

Instron 1331

Servo-Hydraulic Actuation Load Capacity: up to 100 kN

Instron 1332

Servo-Hydraulic Actuation Load Capacity: up to 250 kN

Strength Testing Load Frames

Instron 4484

Motor Actuated Column Screws Load Capacity: 150 kN

Instron 5565

Motor Actuated Column Screws Load Capacity: 30 kN

Instron 5567

Motor Actuated Column Screws

Load Capacity: 30 kN

Instron 5848

Motor Actuated

Capable of Testing Single Fiber Strength Compatible load cells: 5 N, 100 N, 500 N

Instron 5985

Motor Actuated Column Screws

Load Capacity: 250 kN

Compatible load cells: 500 N to 250 kN Extension Rate: 0.00005 to 1016 mm/min

Data acquisition Rate: 2.5 kHz

Instron 8562

Motor Actuated Concentric Screw Load Capacity: up to 100 kN

Structure Testing System

MTS Servo-Hydraulic Test System

SilentFlo 505.30 Hydraulic Power Unit

4 Station Service Manifold

FlexTest 60 Controller

- 4 independent channels

- 4 stations

Many actuators available in the range of 20 to 150 kips

8 ft x 20 ft Reaction Floor

Fixtures to apply loads along any vector

Low and High Temperature Capabilities

Tenny BTRC Temperature and Humidity Test Chamber

Temperature Range -85 to 338 °F Humidity Range 20 to 95% Closed Cycle Cooling

Thermotron F-4-CH-LN2 Temperature Test Chamber

Temperature Range -94 to 338 °F Open Cycle Cooling – CO2, LN2

