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## PRESS RELEASE

### **AMAC: Strategic Partnership with Japanese thermoplastic composites material manufacturer MaruHachi for new business developments in Europe**

As of July 1st, 2017, the Japan-based thermoplastic composites material developer and manufacturer MaruHachi Group expands its activities into the European market in cooperation with Dr. Michael Effing (AMAC GmbH) who will advise and support the company strategically.

The established, family-owned MaruHachi Group has a strong history in automotive and medical textiles and has been active in the innovative composites market for more than 10 years. The aim of the cooperation between MaruHachi and AMAC is the strategic development of new business opportunities in Europe, particularly for applications in the field of sports and leisure, consumer goods, electronics and electricity, building and infrastructure as well as transportation like aviation, automotive and train sector.

Toshi Sugahara, General Manager of MaruHachi: „We believe that the cooperation with AMAC will show good results in the establishment of our European presence. We are happy to benefit from Dr. Effing’s longterm experience as a pioneer in the composites industry, developing TEPEX® thermoplastic composites sheets at DuPont in the 1990s and his high-quality network. With our products, we want to contribute to significant weight reductions of the final product, thus improve energy efficiency while offering a cost-efficient and high-quality solution.“

Dr. Effing, CEO of AMAC GmbH confirms: „MaruHachi is a specialty manufacturer of small-size tailor-made thermoplastic composite components in form of tapes and so-called organo-sheets, who develops products using various polymer types, ranging from polypropylene to high temperature PEEK and the traditional fiber systems of glass, carbon and aramids. I am very pleased to support and advise MaruHachi with the introduction to the highly innovative and most advanced European thermoplastic composites sector. Especially MaruHachi’s products like tapes, sheets and near-net shaped preforms represent an interesting category of material systems and semi-finished products with higher performance, tailored and optimized for any new applications.“

MaruHachi is partner of the AZL in Aachen and participates in the AZL thermoplastic business platform, together with 17 other partners, like Cato, DSM, DuPont, Evonik, HELM or Schuler, to just name a few.

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#### About AMAC

AMAC GmbH is an Industrial and Business Consulting Company in the field of lightweight construction materials based in Aachen, Germany. The business model of AMAC is based on three pillars: establishment and development of networking and clusters between universities and industrial companies, training in Sales and Marketing excellence as well as management of industrial projects in the field of innovations and commercialization. Dr. Michael Effing is Chairman of the board of the trade associations Composites Germany and AVK.

[www.amac-international.com](http://www.amac-international.com)

#### About MARUHACHI

MaruHachi Group with its headquarters in Fukui, Japan, founded in 1936, is a family-owned developer and manufacturer of composite materials with 80 employees, who was traditionally active in textiles. Some 10 years ago, MaruHachi decided to diversify into the fascinating sector of advanced materials, namely into the thermoplastic composites sector, in form of tapes, sheets and near-net shaped preforms. This business is being expanded into the European market since most of the innovations are coming from that region. The offering includes products based on unidirectional reinforcement glass, carbon and aramid fibers with matrices ranging from PE, PP, TPU, PA6, PA/L, PPS, PEI, PES, LCP to PEEK. MaruHachi is an business partner of the AZL in Aachen and participates in the AZL thermoplastic business platform, together with 17 other partners. In 2014, MaruHachi has won the JEC Innovation Awards for their high-pressure vessels.

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