

## Editorial

# Automated composites manufacturing

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The increasing use of composites in many important applications such as aerospace, automobiles, civil infrastructures, and sports equipment gives rise to the need to increase speed, to reduce costs, to reduce waste, and to enhance repeatability in manufacturing. Automation for composites manufacturing has become a necessity. Over the past several years, there has been a significant development in the automation of composites manufacturing. New machines have been developed. Apart from activities at major companies, there have also been activities in automated composites manufacturing at universities and research institutes. The automation not only aims to

increase the efficiency of the composite manufacturing process, but it also brings about new capabilities that significantly enhance the tailorability of composites, for optimization of structural efficiency. Fiber steering brings about new possibilities for making the composite materials working harder and more effectively. This special issue of *Science and Engineering of Composite Materials*, which puts emphasis on automation, marks an important milestone in the new development of composites.

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