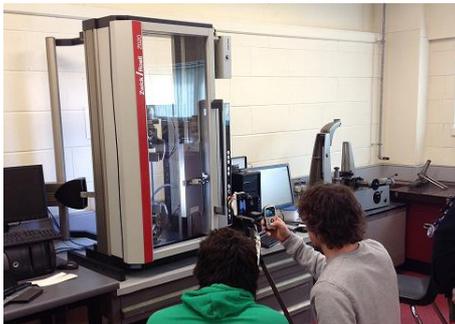


Tensile Testing

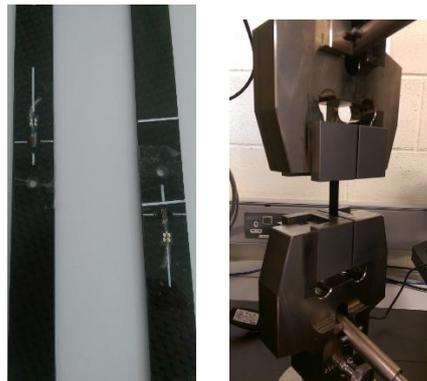
Belfast Met have recently completed commissioning of a Tensile Testing machine at the Millfield Campus. The 20kN Zwick machine is capable of carrying out materials testing in tension, compression, peel and insertion. A range of materials have already been tested for local businesses including steel, aluminium, foams, plastics, elastomers and composites. The use of a video extensometer ensures accurate changes in width can also be monitored, a particularly useful aspect in the testing of composites.



Skunkworks Surfboard Co testing a new range of foam surfboards at Belfast Met

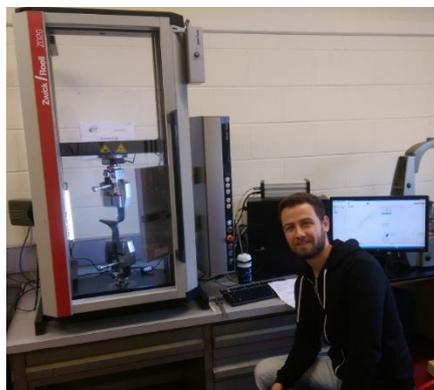
Following the testing of a range of new surfboard materials, Ricky Martin of Skunkworks Surf Co. commented: “Belfast Met assisted us in testing a range of materials for our new foam surfboard design. Determining the response of our boards to loads assists us in verifying our assumptions around material choice and also in proving their abilities to customers. As a result of this testing, our design and marketing has progressed rapidly.”

Belfast Met have also carried out testing on thermoplastic composite samples. Dr Christabel Evans of Ulster University noted that “The ease of access to the testing services assisted us in progressing our project quickly”, following testing during July 2015.



Accurate testing of thermoset and thermoplastic composite components is possible with the video extensometer

In addition to providing quick access to materials testing for local businesses, Belfast Met carry out testing in longer term R&D projects. Athanasios Gkoutziotis, a KTP graduate working for Smiley Monroe is currently undertaking an extensive materials characterisation project for the development of new products. The tensile tester is used extensively in this project to evaluate the performance of novel materials for the company.



Athanasios Gkoutziotis carrying out evaluations on rubber materials as part of a KTP project

The College also specialises in directing local businesses to support funding available to pay for services of this nature.

Contact Us:

Belfast Metropolitan College has a reputation for exceeding employers' expectations and adding real value to local businesses. We have developed excellent links with both employers and employees through the delivery of training, business development advice, the supply of skilled personnel and a wide range of flexible and cost effective services no matter what size your business is.

The College can assist local businesses to access support funding available to pay for services of this nature.

If you are interested in hearing more about how Belfast Met can help with your materials testing, contact:

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