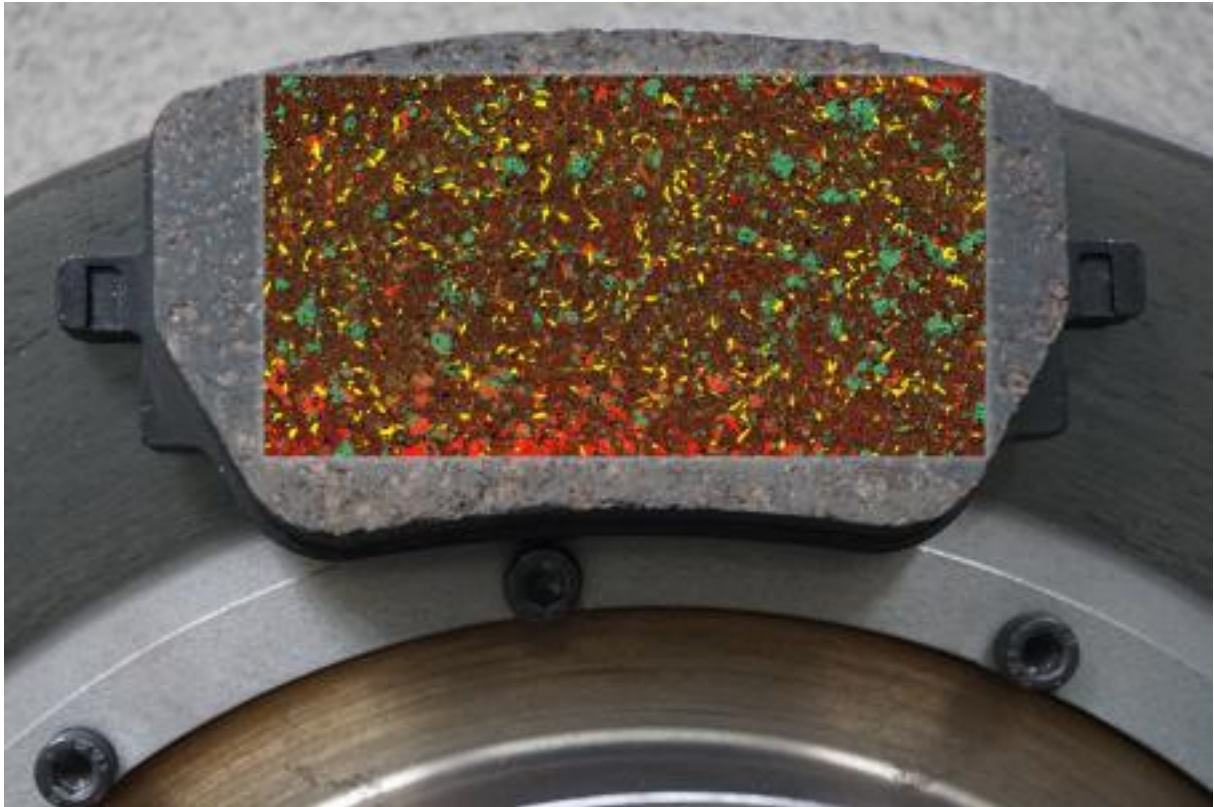


Sustainable braking system: reducing particulate matter and enabling circularity

About this project



BrakeThrough

Sustainable braking system: reducing particulate matter and enabling circularity

Markets: 

Material: Elastomers, Thermoplastics, Others (Polyurethane), Metal matrix composite, Particulate composites, Closed-pore, Open-pore

This project is funded by the Technology Transfer Programme Leichtbau (TTP LB) of the Federal Ministry of Economics and Climate Action.

[Technology Transfer Program Leichtbau](#)

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About this project

Context

Urban road traffic releases large amounts of particulate matter, which can pose significant health risks. Around half of the particulate matter is caused by brake abrasion – regardless of the drive system of the vehicle. Due to their small size, about 90 percent of these particles enter deep into the respiratory tract and can cause serious damage.

The main problem lies in the braking systems currently in use: these are mostly made of gray cast iron alloys and matching brake linings. During braking, the materials wear down and the released particles enter the air. There are currently no alternatives to traditional braking materials for the series production market.

Purpose

The project team aims to develop a cost-effective, low-wear, low-emission and recyclable braking system for industrial production. To this end, the researchers are using brake discs made of highly hard-material particle-reinforced aluminum matrix composites (AMC, short for: aluminum matrix composites). AMC brake discs are almost wear-free in combination with suitable brake pads, so that hardly any particulate matter is produced. This significantly improves air quality, especially in cities and at traffic junctions.

In addition, AMC braking systems are lightweight constructions, which in turn reduces CO₂ emissions while driving. Unlike conventional gray cast iron brake discs, AMC brake discs are also recyclable and reusable.

Procedure

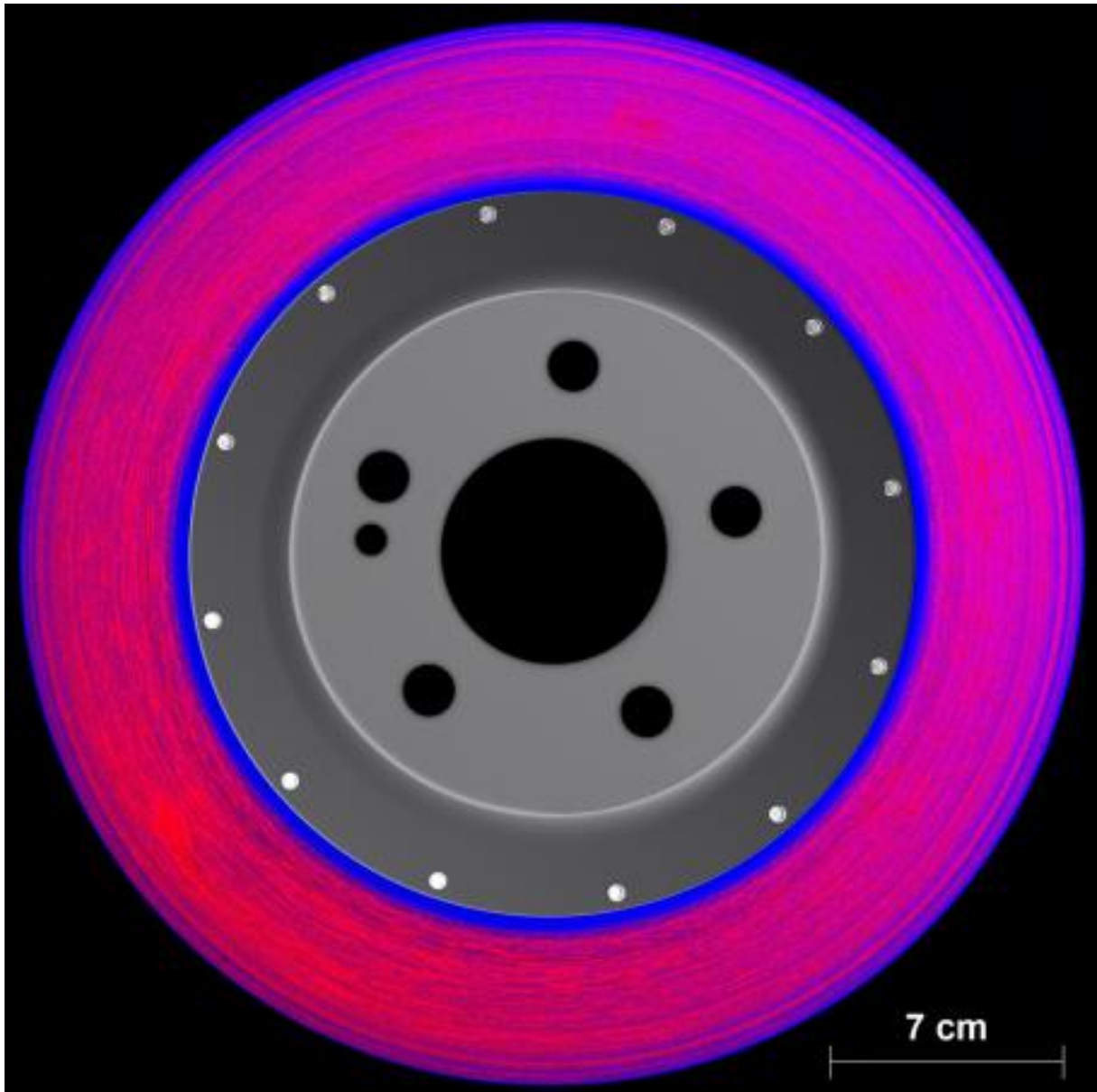
One of the biggest challenges for the use of AMC brake systems is the development of suitable brake pads. These must be designed in such a way that a so-called tribofilm forms during braking. This is created by chemical reactions and acts like a protective layer that prevents wear and the formation of fine dust.

In order to develop suitable brake pads, the project team is therefore analysing the surface structure of the materials using electron and 3D scanning microscopes. Conventional brake pads consist of up to 30 individual components.

The team is optimising these parts, particularly with regard to friction coefficient, durability and noise development. The researchers are also replacing questionable materials, such as copper alloys, with more environmentally friendly alternatives that also support the formation of the tribofilm.

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About this project



Funding duration:

Funding sign:

03LB3035

Funding amount:

EUR 2.4 million

Sustainable braking system: reducing particulate matter and enabling circularity

Project coordination

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English (EN){ { Projektpartner } }



DTS GmbH
Deutschland



Mercedes-Benz

Lightweighting classification

Realisation

Offer

Products

Parts and components, Machines and plants,
Materials



Services & consulting

Training, Validation



Sustainable braking system: reducing particulate matter and enabling circularity

Lightweighting classification	
	Realisation
Field of technology	
<i>Design & layout</i>	
<i>Functional integration</i>	
Measuring and testing technology Component and part analysis, Visual analysis (e.g. microscopy, metallography), Environmental simulation, Materials analysis, Destructive analysis, Non-destructive analysis	✓
<i>Modelling and simulation</i>	
<i>Plant construction & automation</i>	
<i>Recycling technologies</i>	
Manufacturing process	
Additive manufacturing 3D printing	✓
<i>Coating (surface engineering)</i>	
<i>Fibre composite technology</i>	
<i>Forming</i>	
<i>Joining</i>	
<i>Material property alteration</i>	
<i>Primary forming</i>	
Processing and separating Drilling, Turning, Milling, Grinding, Cutting	✓
<i>Textile technology</i>	

Sustainable braking system: reducing particulate matter and enabling circularity

Lightweighting classification	
	Realisation
Material	
<i>Biogenic materials</i>	
Cellular materials (foam materials) Closed-pore, Open-pore	✓
Composites Metal matrix composite, Particulate composites	✓
<i>Fibres</i>	
<i>Functional materials</i>	
<i>Metals</i>	
Plastics Elastomers, Thermoplastics, Others (Polyurethane)	✓
<i>Structural ceramics</i>	
<i>(Technical) textiles</i>	