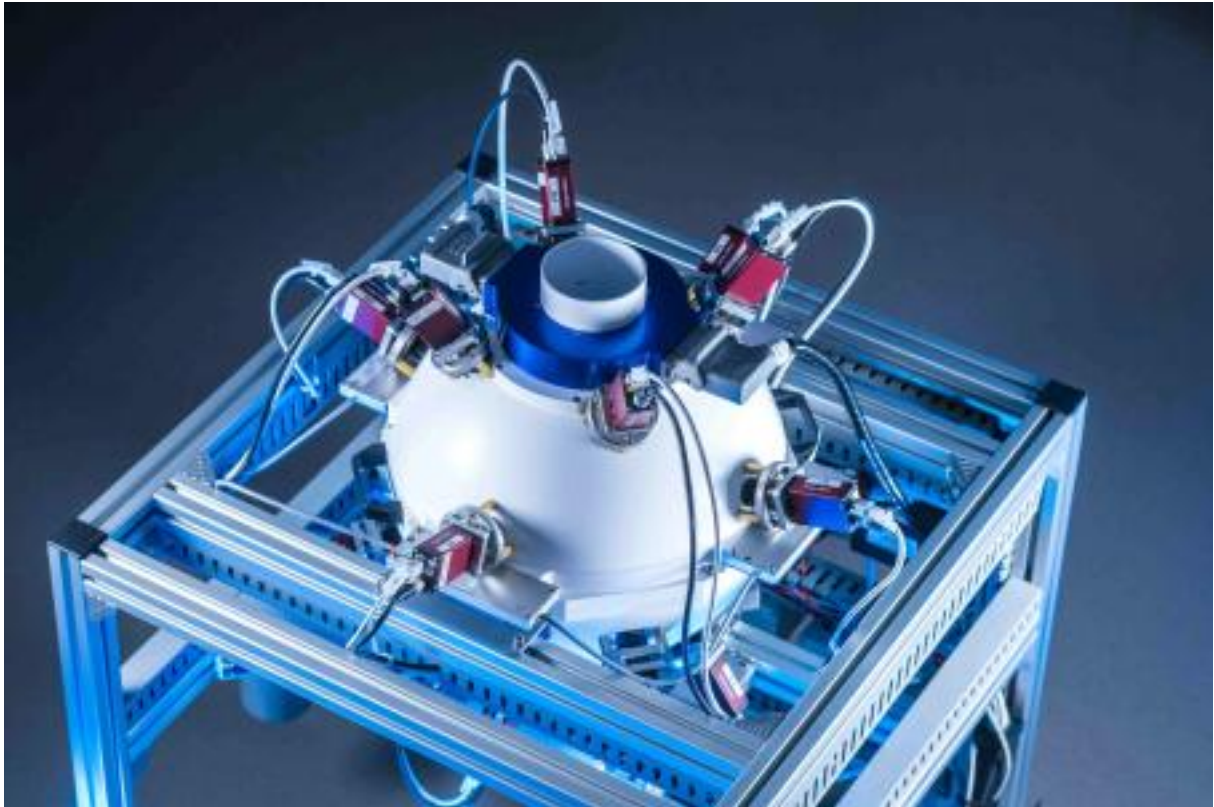


# Making cold forming more resource-efficient: digital in-process testing

## About this project



## GUmProDig

### Making cold forming more resource-efficient: digital in-process testing

**Markets:**



**Material:**

Aluminium, Magnesium, Steel, Titanium

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

[Technology Transfer Program Leichtbau](#)

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## About this project

### Context

A large proportion of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are caused by industrial production. Optimised production processes - for example in automotive or mechanical engineering - therefore offer great potential for reducing emissions.

Forming technology, in which raw parts are specifically brought into a different shape without removing material, offers great advantages over conventional production processes, such as machining, in which material is removed from the raw part. In addition to significantly lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, formed parts also have very good mechanical properties, which makes them more resistant to loads and thus enables smaller designs. Until now, the production of formed parts with tight tolerances has required solutions specially tailored to the components or processes. In order to bring such forming processes into widespread industrial use without special solutions, generally applicable test methods are needed that guarantee the required quality even at very high production cycles. This is where the GUmProDig research project comes in.

### Purpose

The researchers' aim is to use digitalisation to make cold forming more energy-efficient as a manufacturing process and to significantly improve the accuracy and surface quality of formed parts. This makes it possible to replace energy- and material-intensive machining in many areas. The project partners have calculated that the switch to this more resource-efficient manufacturing process and the reduction in rejects due to the shortened start-up phase of the forming process thanks to inline testing technology will already save large amounts of CO<sub>2</sub>.

However, the researchers expect the greatest contribution to CO<sub>2</sub> reduction to come at a later stage: thanks to the continuous inspection and marking-free identification of the components, costly and resource-intensive recalls - which are particularly common in the automotive industry - can be prevented. According to the project partners' forecasts, this should enable total CO<sub>2</sub> savings of more than 600,000 tonnes per year.

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## About this project

### Procedure

The project partners are developing an innovative free-fall inspection system for in-process testing of all manufactured components. The system enables them to precisely record many different quality parameters - such as geometry and surface quality. These parameters can be individually assigned to individual components together with other process monitoring data.

The components are transported individually, but without pre-orientation, via a conveyor belt into a measuring sphere and recorded in free fall from all directions using 16 cameras. Various image processing algorithms, some of which are AI-based, inspect the parts at up to three parts per second with an accuracy of a few micrometres. The project team also uses the individual surface structure of the parts at a defined point as a fingerprint, which can be used to trace them later.

### Funding duration:

<b>Funding sign:</b>	03LB3008	<b>Funding amount:</b>	EUR 1.7 million
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<b>Further websites</b>	<a href="https://foerderportal.bund.de/foekat/jsp/SucheAction.do?actionMode=view&amp;fkz=03LB3008A">foerderportal.bund.de/foekat/jsp/SucheAction.do?actionMode=view&amp;fkz=03LB3008A</a> - GUmProDig in the federal funding catalogue
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# Making cold forming more resource-efficient: digital in-process testing

## Project coordination

### Contact:

Mr Dr. Daniel Carl

+49 0761 / 8857-549

[daniel.carl@ipm.fraunhofer.de](mailto:daniel.carl@ipm.fraunhofer.de)

### Organisation:

Fraunhofer Institute for Physical Measurement  
Techniques IPM

Georges-Köhler-Allee 301  
79110 Freiburg  
Baden-Württemberg  
Germany

🔗 [www.ipm.fraunhofer.de/](http://www.ipm.fraunhofer.de/)



## English (EN){ { Projektpartner } }



SOTEC GmbH & Co KG, Winning CoFo - Räuchle GmbH

## Lightweighting classification

### Realisation

#### Offer

#### Products

Parts and components



*Services & consulting*

# Making cold forming more resource-efficient: digital in-process testing

Lightweighting classification	
	Realisation
<b>Field of technology</b>	
<i>Design &amp; layout</i>	
<b>Functional integration</b> Sensor technology	✓
<b>Measuring and testing technology</b> Component and part analysis, Visual analysis (e.g. microscopy, metallography), Non-destructive analysis	✓
<b>Modelling and simulation</b> Processes	✓
<i>Plant construction &amp; automation</i>	
<i>Recycling technologies</i>	
<b>Manufacturing process</b>	
<i>Additive manufacturing</i>	
<i>Coating (surface engineering)</i>	
<i>Fibre composite technology</i>	
<b>Forming</b> Impact extrusion	✓
<i>Joining</i>	
<i>Material property alteration</i>	
<i>Primary forming</i>	
<b>Processing and separating</b> Grinding	✓
<i>Textile technology</i>	

## Making cold forming more resource-efficient: digital in-process testing

Lightweighting classification	
	Realisation
<b>Material</b>	
<i>Biogenic materials</i>	
<i>Cellular materials (foam materials)</i>	
<i>Composites</i>	
<i>Fibres</i>	
<i>Functional materials</i>	
<b>Metals</b> Aluminium, Magnesium, Steel, Titanium	✓
<i>Plastics</i>	
<i>Structural ceramics</i>	
<i>(Technical) textiles</i>	