

Chapter 7

Closing Remarks



With the end of the presented methodology for integrated product development with FRPs, the preparation for the actual manufacturing of the product begins. Establishment of suitable supply chains, qualification of materials, development of processes and corresponding tools as well as many other activities are required, on the way to a fully functional serial production. Therefore, the importance of integrative measures exceeds the pure product development and extends over the entire product creation process. For a successful product creation, the specialists who are involved in all these upcoming phases must also develop a holistic way of thinking, as provided by this book.

The reader, to whom this book is intended to convey a generalist mind-set, might now also be at the beginning of further specialization in a specific field, e.g. component design, materials science or manufacturing. Like all other skills, the holistic way of thinking needs to be cultivated and trained, in order not to lose it. This is highly recommended especially to the students among the readers, who may still have many years of highly specialized training to go. Due to the rapid developments in the field of FRPs, a recurring consideration of all areas is essential. It must also be taken into account, that in the future, there will certainly be more specific and sophisticated methods for integrated product development, than the one presented in this book, which was idealized and simplified for teaching purposes. Hence, in addition to the different development areas for FRP, also the integrative measures require ongoing attention. Above all, the intrinsic motivation, to remain a generalist despite all specialization, needs to be preserved—because at the end, integration is only successful if it is truly lived by the engineers.