
Hydroforming at Elevated Temperatures

International Seminar on Forming Technology
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THE FRAUNHOFER-GESELLSCHAFT

The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft



The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft undertakes applied research of direct utility to private and public enterprise and of wide benefit to society.

- 60 Institutes in Germany
- 17 000 employees, in majority scientists and engineers

Our Customers:

- Industry
- Service sector
- Public administration



**Joseph von
Fraunhofer**



**The Fraunhofer-
Gesellschaft**

Discovery of
“Fraunhofer Lines” in
the sun spectrum

New methods of lens
processing

Head of
Royal Glass Factory

Researcher

Inventor

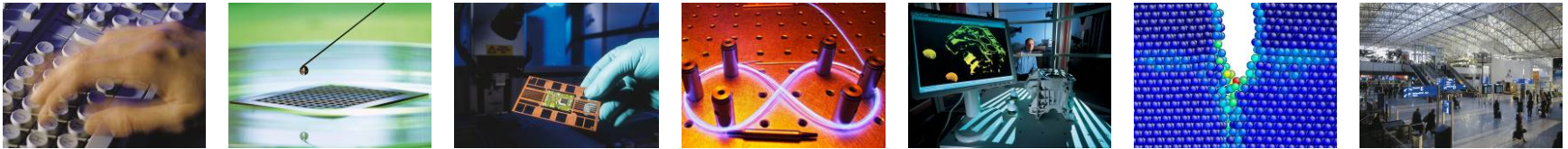
Entrepreneur

Research and
development by order
of industry and state

Music format MP3,
white LED, high-
resolution infrared
camera

Research Volume:
~ 1.4 billion euro per
year

The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft in Profile



7 Alliances:

- Information and Communication Technology
- Life Sciences
- Microelectronics
- Light & Surfaces
- **Production**
- MATERIALS - Materials and Components
- Defense and Security

Alliance: Production

(founded 1998)

- IFF Magdeburg
- IML Dortmund
- IPA Stuttgart
- IPK Berlin
- IPT Aachen
- **IWU Chemnitz / Dresden / Augsburg**
- UMSICHT Oberhausen

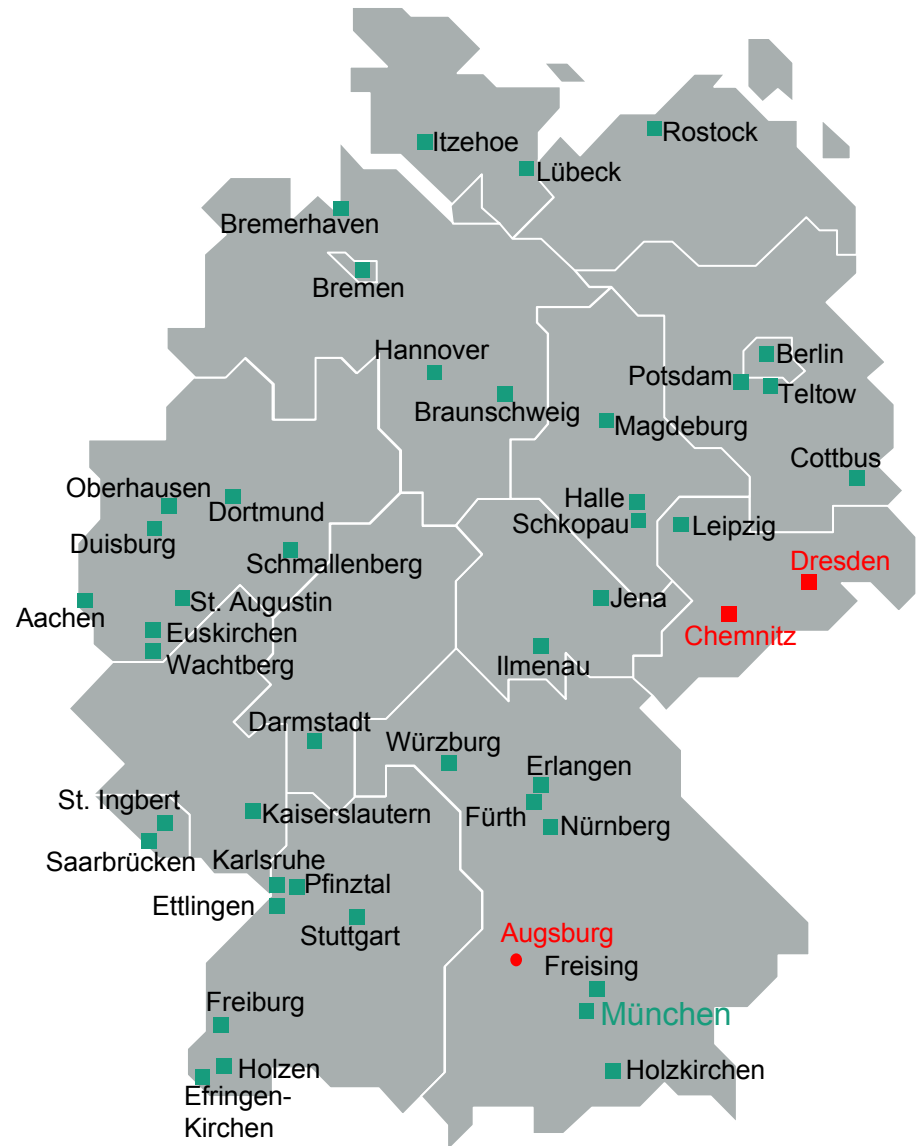
THE FRAUNHOFER IWU

Profile

The Fraunhofer IWU

Locations in Germany

- founded on July 1st, 1991
- about 380 employees
- > 23 million euro budget
- 7 000 m² area in Chemnitz und Dresden, thereof 4 000 m² test area
- Project group in Augsburg since January 2009



The Fraunhofer IWU in Profile



Fields of expertise

- Machine Tools
- Mechatronics
- Cutting Technologies
- Forming Technologies
- System Technology

in close cooperation with

- Chemnitz University of Technology
- Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft
- Machine tool industry
- German and international automobile industry
- Ancillary industry (forming, cutting, tool and die making)

Research Activities in Europe

European Commission

Swiss Federal Institute of
Technology Zurich (ETH)

SWISSMEM
(Association of the Swiss
Mechanical and Electrical
Engineering Industries)

ITIA-CNR (Institute of
Industrial Technology and
Automation of the Italian
National Research Council)

UCIMU (Association of Italian
Manufacturers of Machine Tools,
Robots, Automation Systems and
ancillary products)

STANKIN (Moscow
State Technological
Institute)

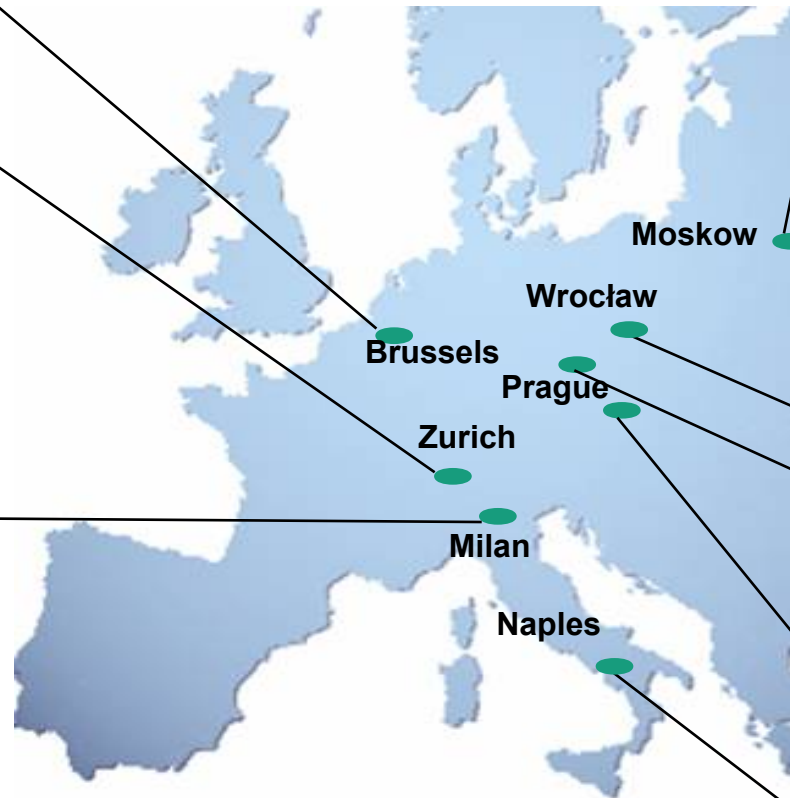
NIAT (National
Institute of Aviation
Technologies)

Wrocław University
of Technology

Czech Technical
University in Prague
(CTU)

Brno University of
Technology

University Naples
„Federico II“



Hydroforming at Elevated Temperatures

Hydroforming at Elevated Temperatures

Introduction, Motivation

Hydroforming at Elevated Temperatures - Requirements

- Market trends
 - Individualism → increasing variety of parts
 - higher part and shape complexity
 - reducing structural weight
- Lightweight design
 - Increasing formability of lightweight materials (Al, Mg, Ti)
 - Implementing heat treatment of high performance steel

Hydroforming at Elevated Temperatures

Technological Base, Overview

	<i>Media</i>	<i>Technology</i>	<i>Available Technique</i>
Hydro-forming	Fluid	Hydroforming of tubes and profiles	- at RT up to 700 MPa - at 300°C up to 80 MPa
		Sheet metal hydroforming	- at RT up to 700 MPa - at 300°C up to 80 MPa
	Gas	Gas-Forming	- at RT up to 80 MPa
		Hot-Gas-Forming	- at 1200°C, up to 80 MPa
Electro-magnetic Forming (EMF)	Magnetic Field	Flat Forming Compression of tubes Expansion of tubes	- at 100kJ up to 21 kV RT= room temperature

Hydroforming at Elevated Temperatures

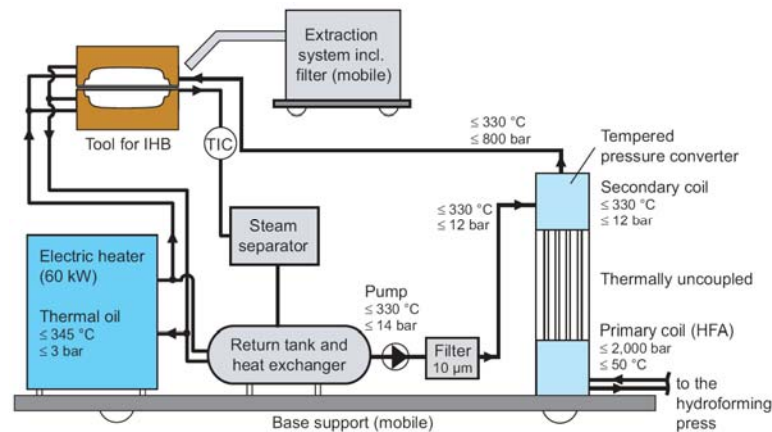
Technological Base



mobile heat treatment system

Mobile heat treatment system for thermal fluids

- System with two separated circuits
- pressure up to 80MPa (800 bar)
- max. temperature of thermal fluid up to 300°C
- steam separator, mobile exhaust ventilation



Hydroforming at Elevated Temperatures

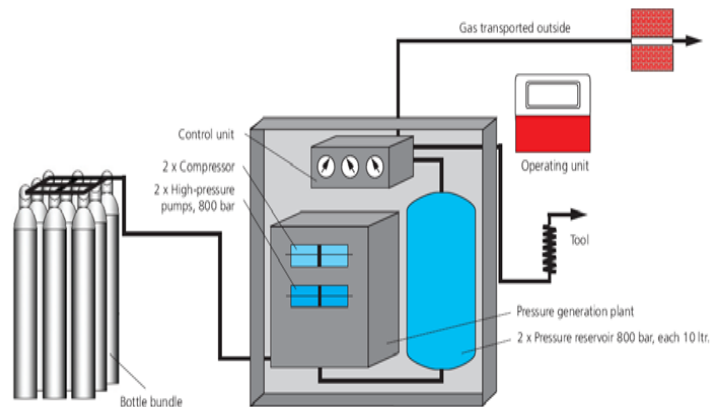
Technological Base



mobile heat treatment system

Gas pressure generator unit

- gas bottle bunch 30MPa (nitrogen)
- 2 x pre-compressors
- 2 x high pressure compressors up to 80MPa
- 2 x pressure accumulators 80MPa, 10 liter each



Hydroforming at Elevated Temperatures

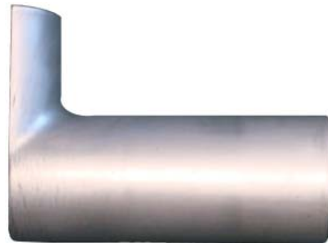
Hydroforming with fluid media

Fundamental research

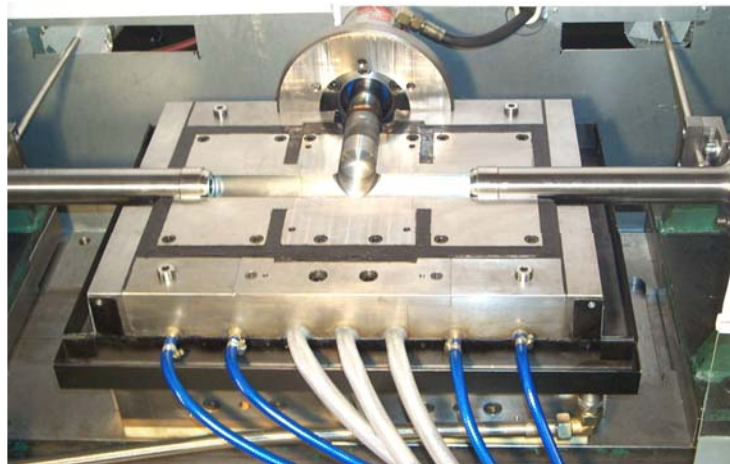
- tool design for thermal hydroforming
- process design using coupled FEA
- material behavior depending on temperature
- suitable process parameter sets



AZ61 at room temp.



AZ61 at 280°C

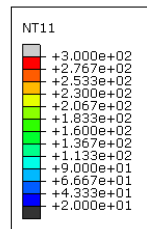


hydroforming die set with heating and cooling segments

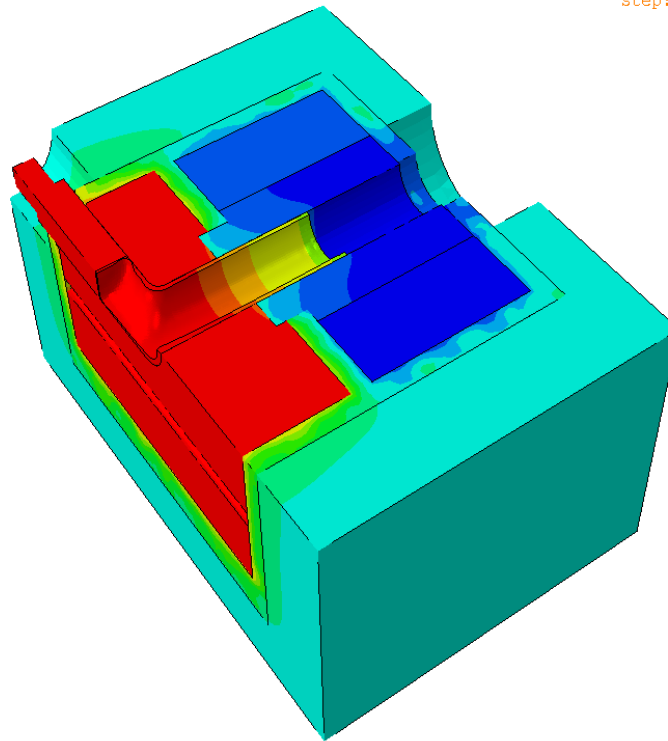
Hydroforming at Elevated Temperatures

Hydroforming with fluid media

Thermo-mechanical coupled simulation



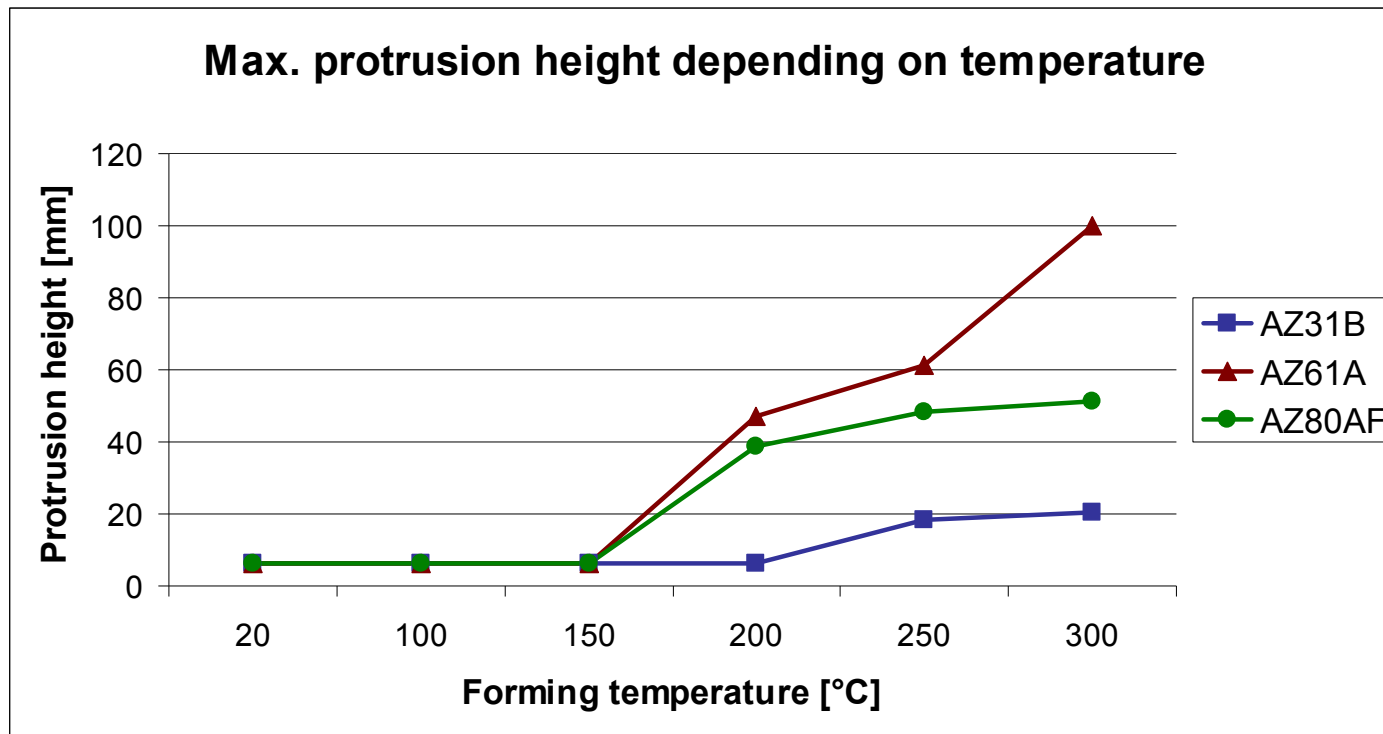
Step: Step-1 Frame: 16



Hydroforming at Elevated Temperatures

Hydroforming with fluid media

Results of fundamental research



Hydroforming at Elevated Temperatures

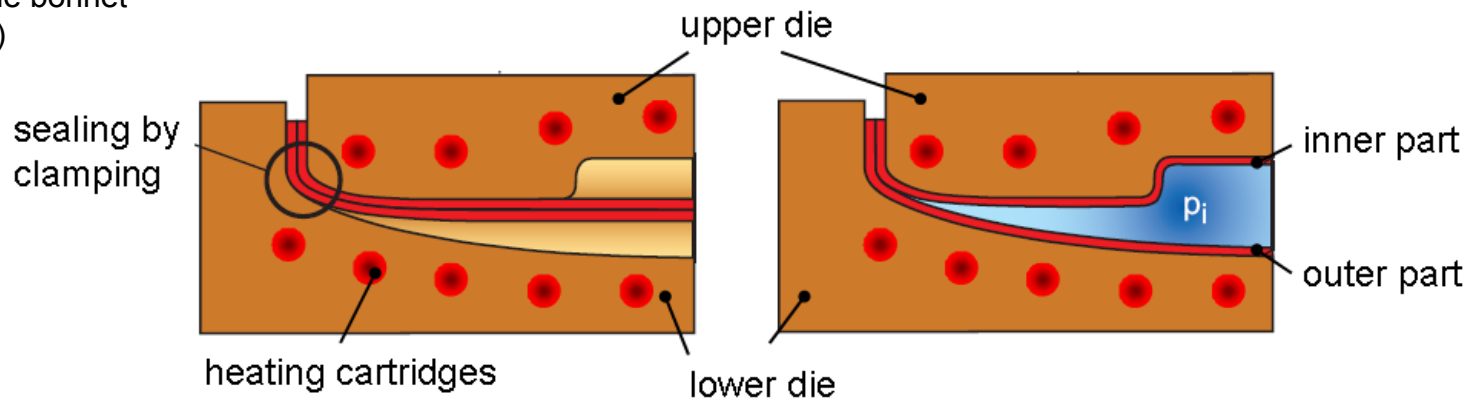
Hydroforming with fluid media

Demonstrator to prove several concepts



model engine bonnet
(scale 1:2.5)

- combination of deep drawing a double blank and hydroforming process in one stroke (steel)
- tool re-design for thermal hydroforming for aluminum and magnesium alloys (up to 250°C)



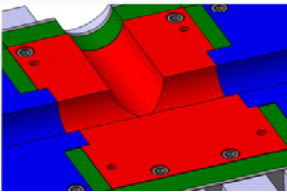
Hydroforming at Elevated Temperatures

Gas forming, Hydroforming with gaseous media

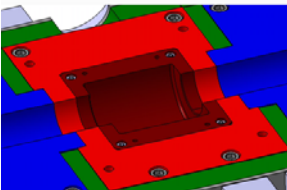
Fundamental research

- tool and process design for thermal hydroforming
- formability depending on temperature
- suitable process parameter sets

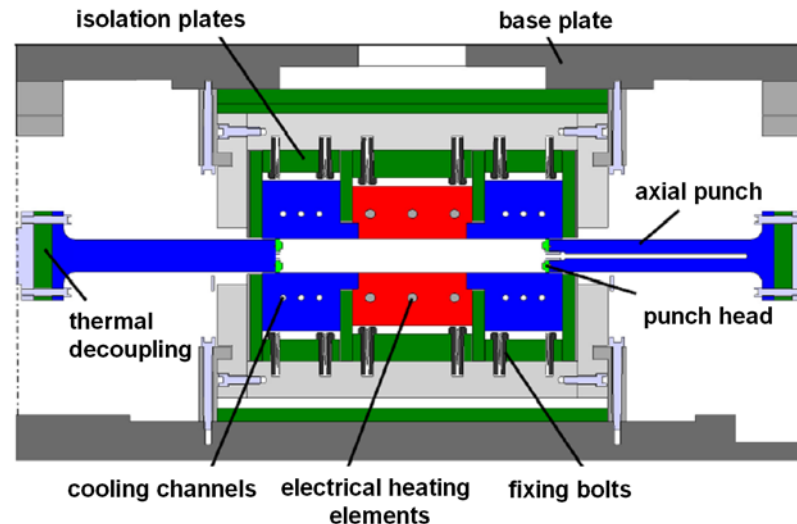
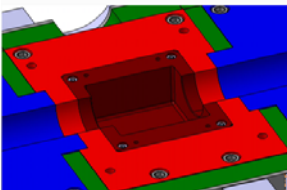
T-fitting



barrel

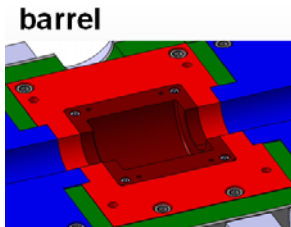


cube

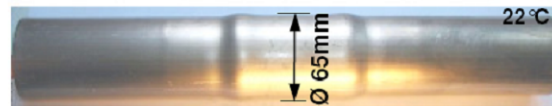


Hydroforming at Elevated Temperatures

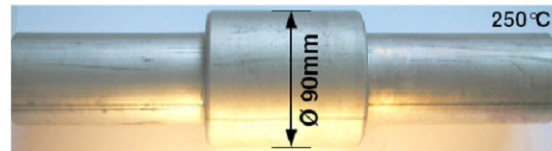
Gas forming, Fundamental research - results



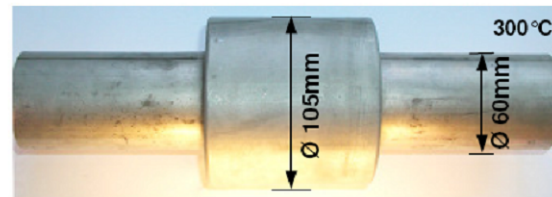
AZ 61 A



$\vartheta_U = 22\text{ °C}; \Delta u_{\max} = 5,6\%$



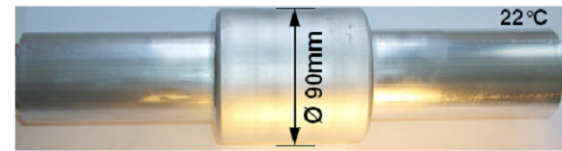
$\vartheta_U = 250\text{ °C}; \Delta u_{\max} = 59,2\%$



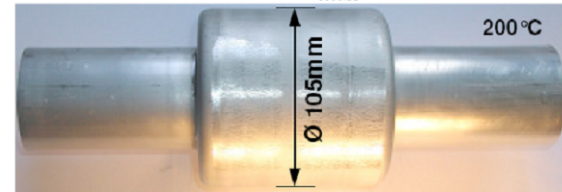
$\vartheta_U = 300\text{ °C}; \Delta u_{\max} = 73,3\%$

Increasing Δu_{\max} by 67,7%

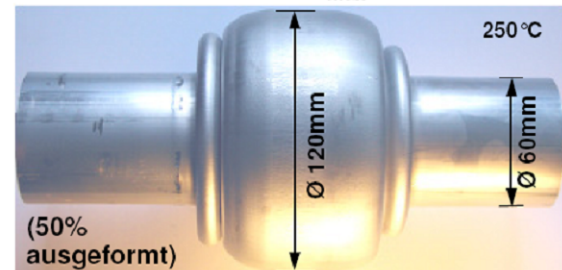
AlMgSi0,5



$\vartheta_U = 22\text{ °C}; \Delta u_{\max} = 56,6\%$



$\vartheta_U = 200\text{ °C}; \Delta u_{\max} = 80,0\%$

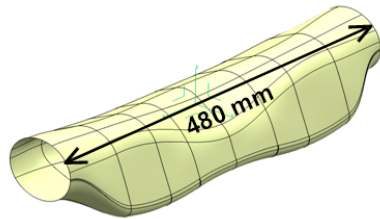


$\vartheta_U = 250\text{ °C}; \Delta u_{\max} = 93,3\%$

Increasing Δu_{\max} by 36,7%

Hydroforming at Elevated Temperatures

Gas forming, industrial parts



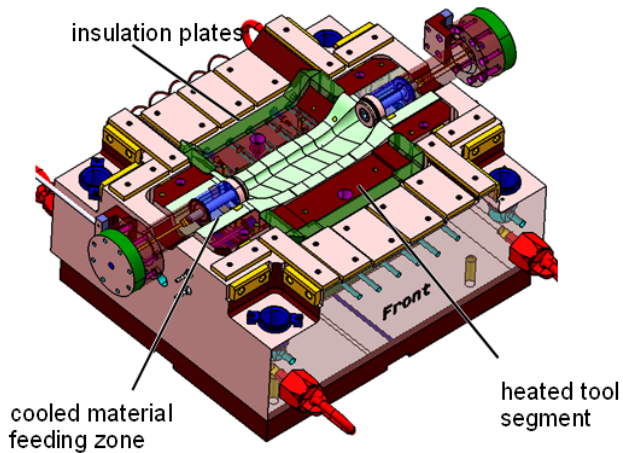
Lightweight Rear Axle Cross Member

■ materials

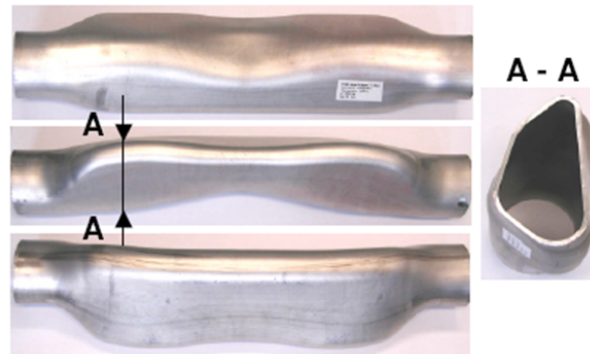
- magnesium: AZ 31 B / AZ 61 A / AZ 80 A-F

- aluminum: AlMgSi0,5 / AlMg3Mn

■ tube dimensions: 85 x 650 x 4,0



$$\Delta u_{\max} = 42 \%$$



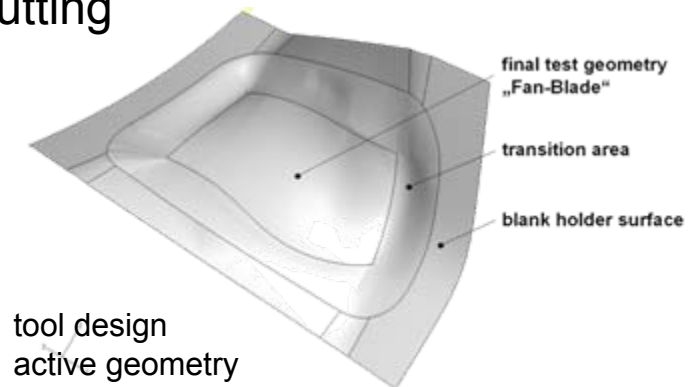
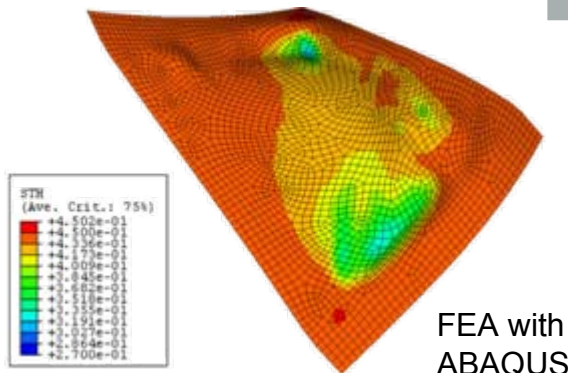
Hydroforming at Elevated Temperatures

Gas forming, industrial study, Titanium blanks



Part & process design

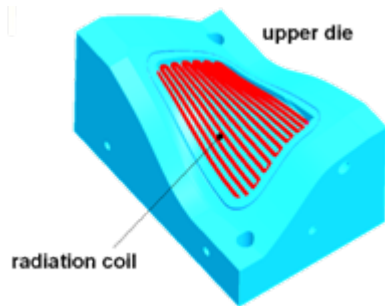
- material: Titanium (Ti3Al2.5V), wall thickness 0,4mm
- method planning
 - OP 10: blanking (right angular)
 - OP 20: drilling (angle 70°)
 - OP 30: gas forming
 - OP 40: laser cutting



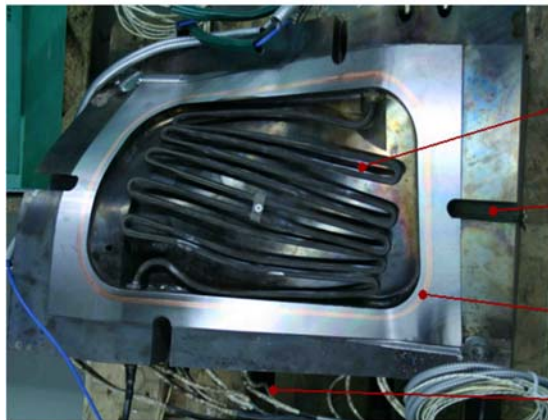
Hydroforming at Elevated Temperatures

Gas forming, industrial study, Titanium blanks

Tool design and prototyping



- electrical heated tool (heating cartridges, radiator)
- thermal control of upper and lower die
- gas forming at 650°C and 35MPa gas pressure



Hydroforming at Elevated Temperatures

Gas forming of Magnesium with local heat treatment

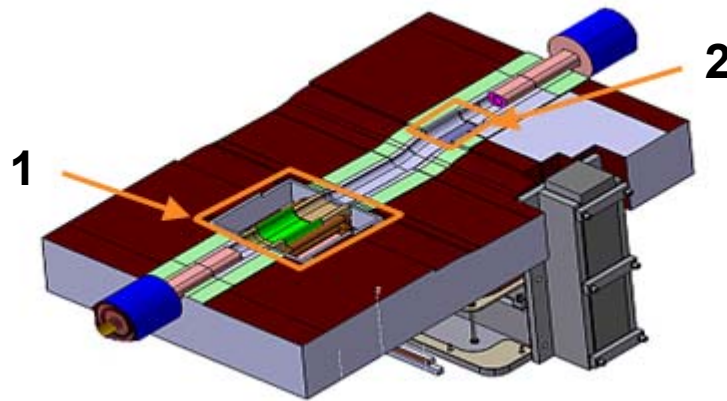
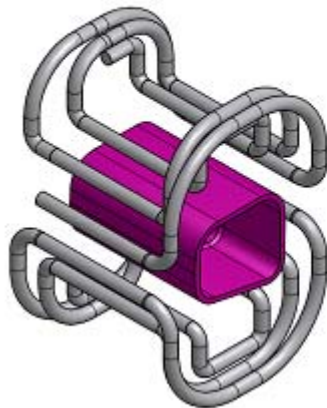
Integration of heat treatment into die set

- local heating to increase formability

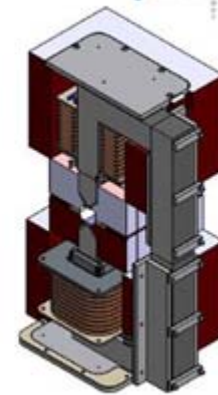


- inductive heat treatment (1)
- magnetic heat treatment (2)

EMA-TEC



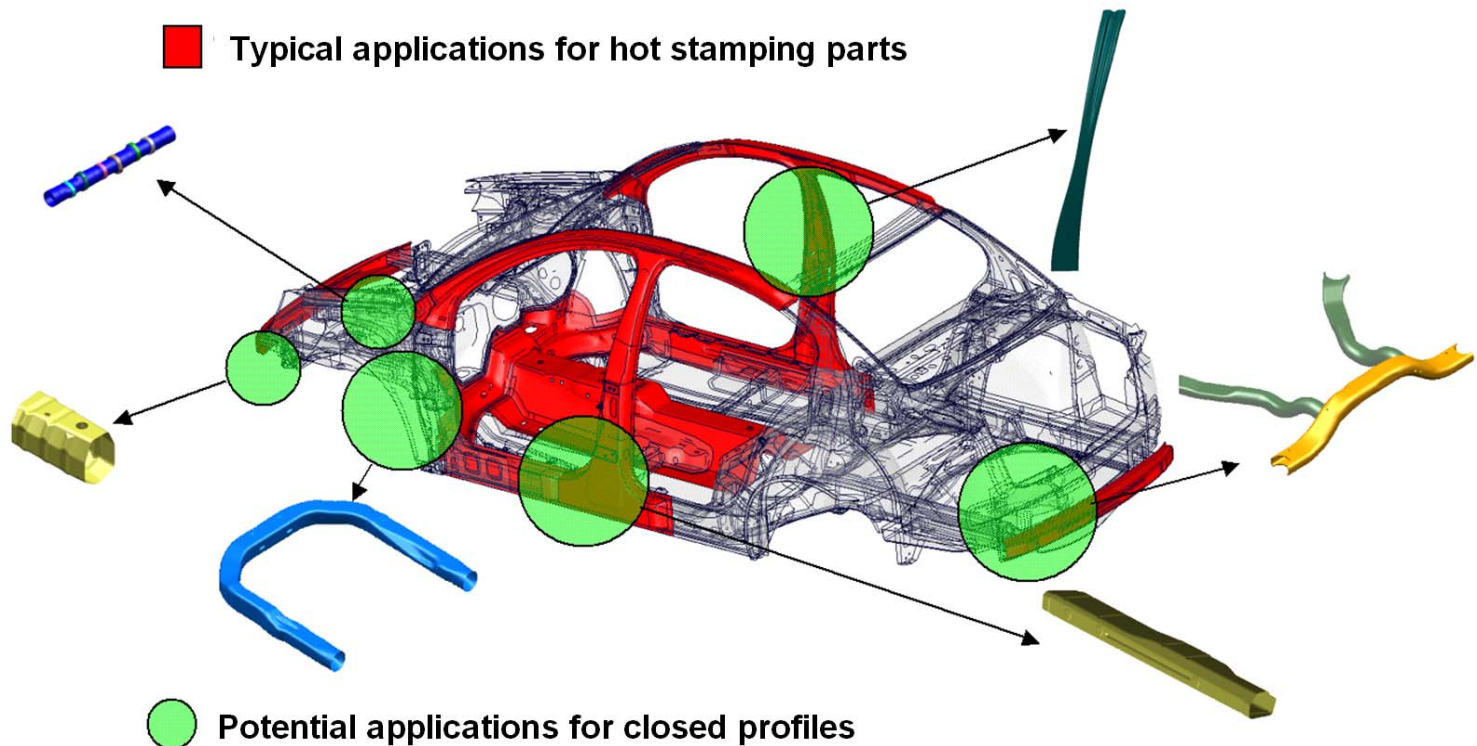
pro beam



Hydroforming at Elevated Temperatures

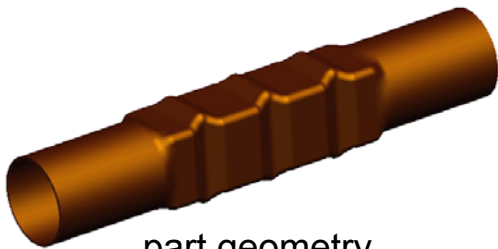
Press Hardening of Tubes via Gas forming

Potential applications for press hardened tubes



Hydroforming at Elevated Temperatures

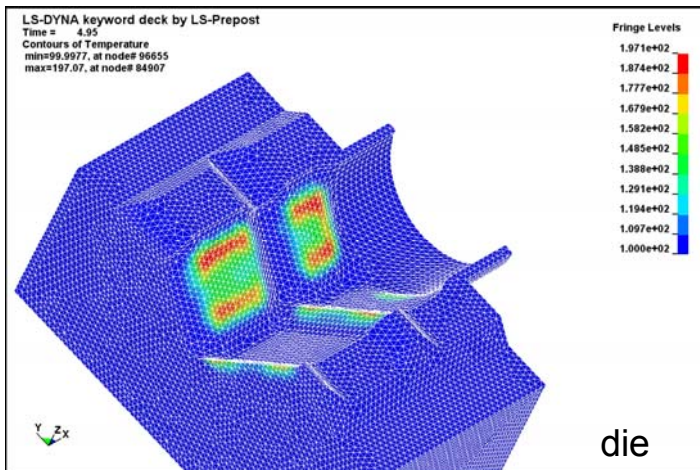
Press Hardening of Tubes via Gas forming



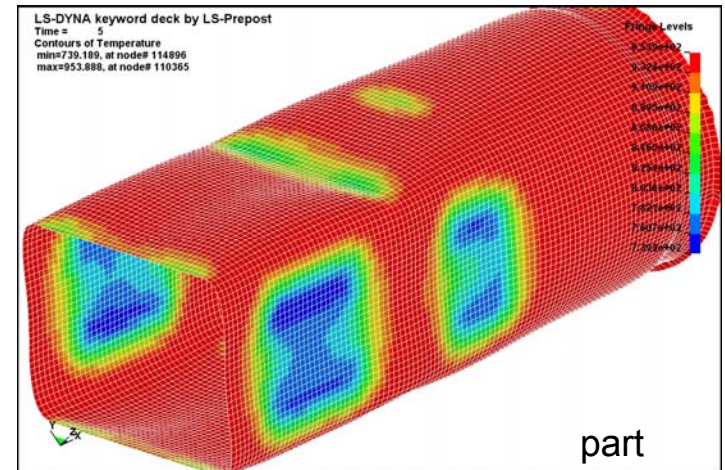
part geometry

Part & process design

- 3 rows of bulges with corner radius of 8mm
- tube 70 x 2, 22MnB5, coating x-tec^R CO 4020
- FEA with LS-DYNA

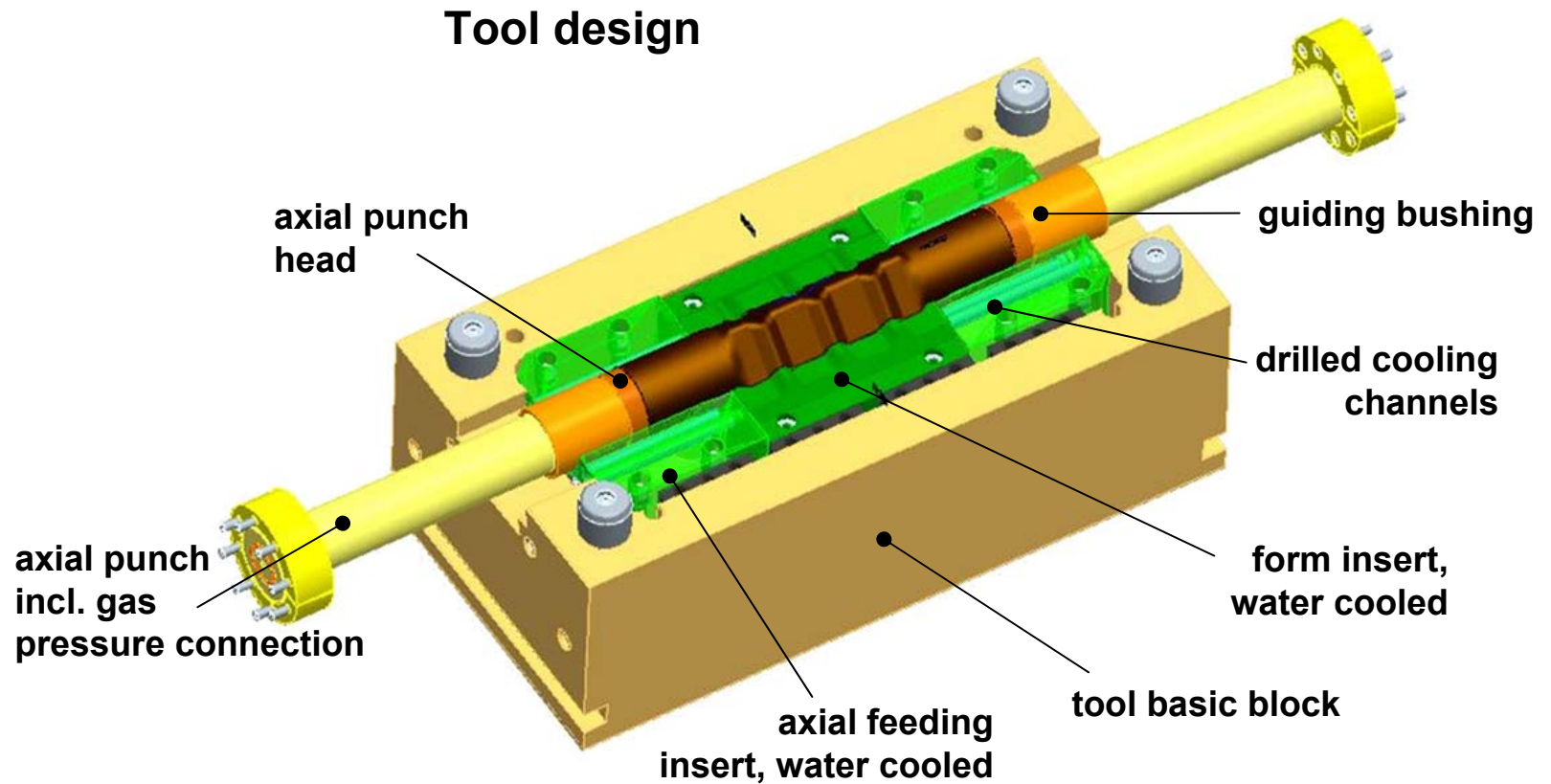


temperature
distribution
after closing



Hydroforming at Elevated Temperatures

Press Hardening of Tubes via Gas forming

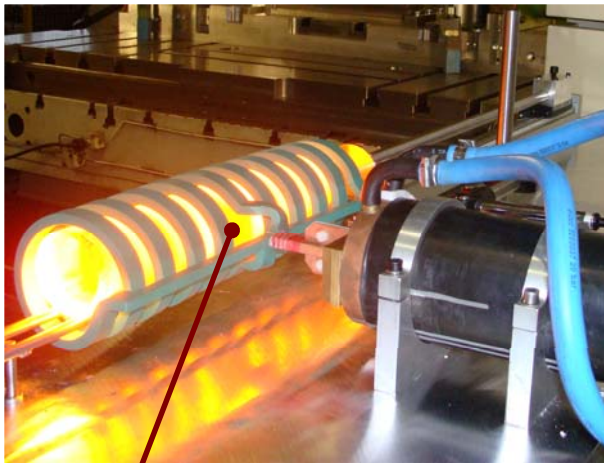


Hydroforming at Elevated Temperatures

Press Hardening of Tubes via Gas forming

Process steps

inductive heat treatment

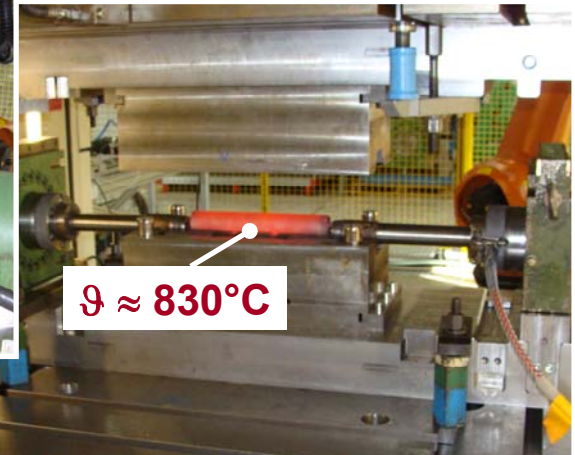


$\vartheta \approx 950^{\circ}\text{C}$, 50 sek

part handling



die closing



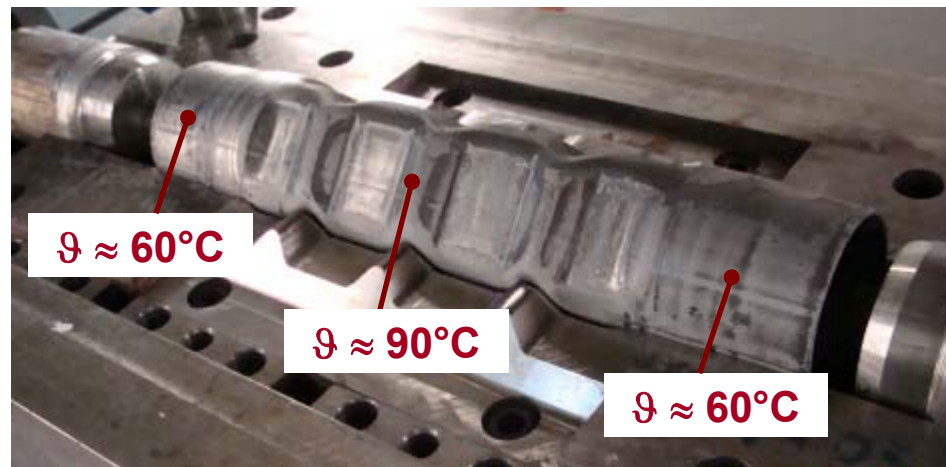
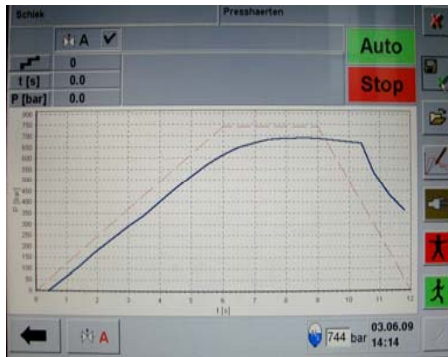
$\vartheta \approx 830^{\circ}\text{C}$

Hydroforming at Elevated Temperatures

Press Hardening of Tubes via Gas forming

Forming sequence

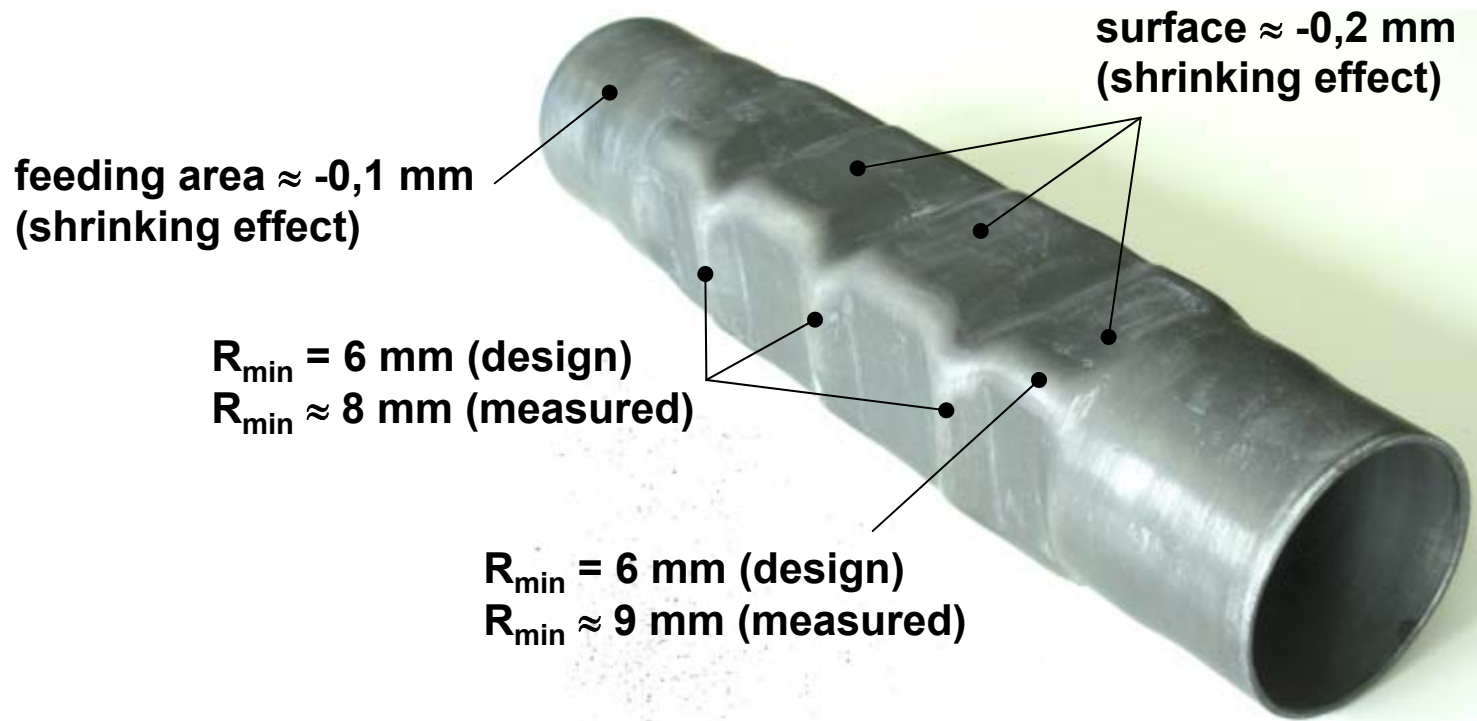
- forming, pressure 0 to 70 MPa 6 sec
- calibration at 70 MPa 3 sec
- pressure outlet, 70 to 0 MPa 3 sec
- colling down at 0 MPa 15 sec



Hydroforming at Elevated Temperatures

Press Hardening of Tubes via Gas forming

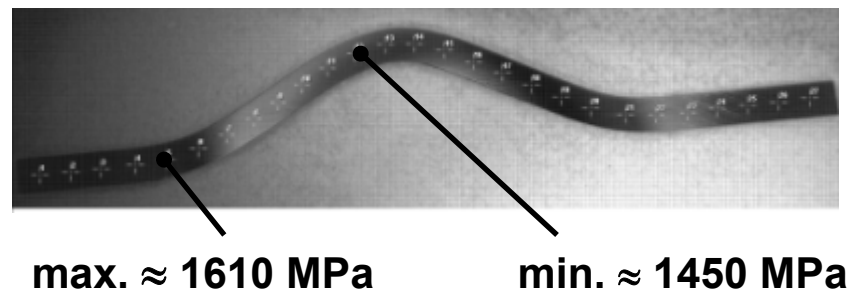
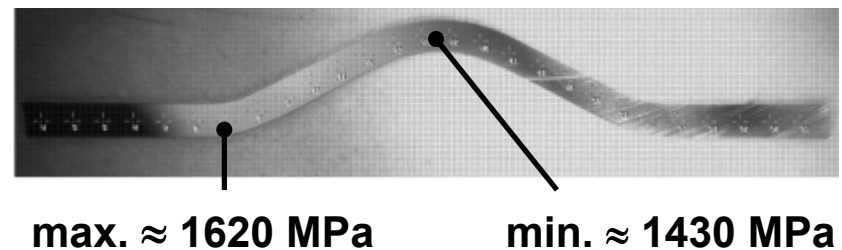
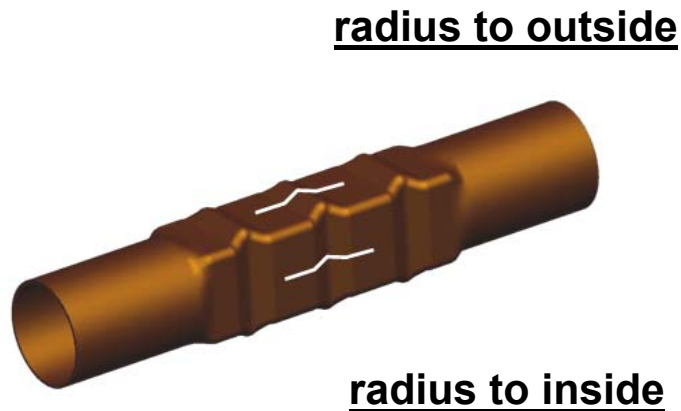
Results of CMM Measuring



Hydroforming at Elevated Temperatures

Press Hardening of Tubes via Gas forming

Results of Hardness Measuring



Hydroforming at Elevated Temperatures

Summary

Realized effects

- increased formability of lightweight materials (Al, Mg, Ti) to form complex shapes
- local heat treatment to reduce cost (energy, die set)
- press hardening to increase strength of manganese-boron steel (500 to 1500 MPa)

Gained expertise

- suitable part, tool and process design
- thermo-mechanical coupled FEA