

# Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0266-3538(17)31498-7

DOI: [10.1016/j.compscitech.2017.09.017](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.compscitech.2017.09.017)

Reference: CSTE 6907

To appear in: *Composites Science and Technology*

Received Date: 20 June 2017

Revised Date: 15 September 2017

Accepted Date: 15 September 2017

Please cite this article as: Post W, Cohades AM, Michaud V, van der Zwaag S, García SJ, Healing of a glass fibre reinforced composite with a disulphide containing organic-inorganic epoxy matrix, *Composites Science and Technology* (2017), doi: 10.1016/j.compscitech.2017.09.017.

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## Healing of a glass fibre reinforced composite with a disulphide containing organic-inorganic epoxy matrix

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**Keywords:** Functional composites, self-healing, fracture toughness, impact behaviour, thermomechanical properties

### Abstract

We report the development of an intrinsic healing glass fibre reinforced polymer (GFRP) composite based on a disulphide-containing organic-inorganic thermoset matrix. Thermomechanical experiments showed that the newly developed matrix has a combination of a Young's modulus value in the range of (800-1200 MPa), the ability to multiple thermally induced healing delamination (70-85°C), and processability by conventional vacuum infusion process that is not yet reported in literature. The composite mechanical properties and the extent of healing were determined by flexural, fracture and low-velocity impact testing. Small sized (<cm<sup>2</sup>) damage could be partially healed multiple times using a minimal healing pressure to ensure a good alignment of the damaged interfaces. The level of healing can be enhanced, even for large (>cm<sup>2</sup>) damage, by increasing the healing pressure provided the location of the primary damage is concentrated within the matrix phase. The polymer matrix composite introduced here represents a significant step forward from the often mechanically inferior intrinsically self-healing composites towards structural self-healing composites.

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