Gestamp, in collaboration with SSAB, successfully develops a new lighter and stronger steel

- The new material, the result of a joint project between the Spanish multinational and the Nordic steel company, is a higher strength steel delivering lighter-weight with a contribute to ESG

- Docol 1000CP steel, a 7-year long collaborative effort, has been developed specifically to fabricate a Toyota Yaris chassis product

Bilbao (Spain), June 28, 2022. Together with SSAB, Gestamp has developed a new steel with a high strength level and at the same time a good formality, lighter and therefore more respectful of the environment, to manufacture chassis part for the Toyota Yaris. It is Docol1000CP steel, which has a significantly higher strength (1000 Mpa) than conventionally used grades, maintaining the quality, performance and geometry of the parts.

In 2014, Gestamp started developing a new front lower control arm (FLCA) for the Toyota Yaris in Europe. To deliver a lighter solution to his customer, Gestamp Chassis wanted to challenge the steel grades available. This is when Gestamp approached SSAB. This Nordic company, a steel company specializing in delivering high strength steels, is an important partner for Gestamp on the path towards a more sustainable automotive industry, where weight reduction and CO2 savings are key factors.

The characteristics of Docol 1000CP, an advanced high strength steel, also allow lighter parts to be produced and it offers a very positive behavior against fatigue, an important property for any part of the steering and suspension of a car such as the FLCA. In addition, since a lower weight equals lower fuel consumption and therefore reduce emissions, this steel contributes to protecting the environment.

This project reflects key elements of Gestamp chassis business model. On one hand, it is focused on offering a service with high added value to the customer. On the other hand, it highlights the role of innovation as a transforming element in the automotive industry and, in addition, contributes to the objective of manufacturing products with the Company's ESG strategy.

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Close collaboration is essential

As SSAB Sales Segment Manager Ben Cook says: "That's exactly how SSAB likes to work: being invited to participate right at the beginning of the project." Both companies have worked closely throughout the process, from the composition of the material to the characterization and, finally, the homologation of said steel to be used in parts as sensitive to vehicle stability as a front lower control arm (FLCA).

Dr. Mehdi Asadi, Materials Engineering Manager at Gestamp Chassis Germany, states: "This new material (Docol 1000CP) has enabled us to offer a much lighter front lower control arm than its predecessor."

Carlota Arenillas, Manager of innovation projects at Gestamp Chassis Spain, comments: "We were able to test a large number of different compositions thanks to SSAB's flexibility and speed of response regarding the prototype materials."

About Gestamp

Gestamp is a multinational specialized in the design, development and manufacture of highly engineered metal components for the main vehicle manufacturers. It develops products with an innovative design to produce lighter and safer vehicles, which offer lower energy consumption and a lower environmental impact. Its products cover the areas of bodywork, chassis and mechanisms.

The company is present in 24 countries with more than 100 production plants, 13 R&D centers and a workforce of nearly 40,000 employees worldwide. Its turnover in 2021 was 8,093 million euros. Gestamp is listed on the Spanish stock exchange under the ticker GEST.

About SSAB

SSAB is a Nordic and US-based steel company. SSAB offers value added products and services developed in close cooperation with its customers to create a stronger, lighter and more sustainable world. SSAB has employees in over 50 countries. SSAB has production facilities in Sweden, Finland and the US. SSAB is listed on Nasdaq Stockholm and has a secondary listing on Nasdaq Helsinki

About Docol Automotive Steels

SSAB innovates advanced high-strength steels for the automotive industry, providing its Docol AHSS steels and expert resources to automakers so they can meet their lightweighting and crash performance goals. SSAB supplies a large number of standard grades of Docol high-strength automotive steels — including AHSS, UHSS and gigapascal strengths — with hundreds of variations to meet specific VDA, SAE, EN, JIS, and OEM standards.

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