



————— PRESS RELEASE —————

AMSilk Announces Partnership with Airbus to Develop the Next Generation of Composite Fibers for Lightweight, High-Performance Planes

- *Leading aerospace company and advanced biopolymers producer partner to develop the first composite material made of bionic high-performance Biosteel® fiber.*
- *Biosteel® fiber is identical in molecular composition to spider silk, a material known for its strength, flexibility and lightweight structure.*
- *Biosteel® fiber offers superior flexibility in comparison to carbon fiber, enabling novel design and construction techniques for the planes of the future without compromising on strength.*

Planegg, September 12, 2018 – AMSilk, the world’s first industrial supplier of synthetic silk biopolymers, today announces a partnership with Airbus, global leader in aeronautics, space and related services. The two companies have entered into a joint cooperation agreement to develop the new era of composites for use in the aerospace industry.

In recent years, the aerospace industry has shifted from metal and steel fuselage and wings to carbon fiber composite materials, primarily in an effort to decrease the plane’s weight and save fuel over time. Airbus, committed to remaining at the forefront of aerospace innovation, is the first in the industry to experiment with this new material. It intends to explore how AMSilk’s Biosteel® fiber can allow them to approach the design and construction of their planes in an entirely new way.

The new composite material will be built using AMSilk’s Biosteel® fiber technology, which enables lightweight construction with multiple shock resistance and flexibility. As demand for air travel continues to increase, the need for larger, more flexible planes which spend less time in the shop and more time in the sky will continue to grow.



Biosteel® fiber is made from a biopolymer based on natural spider silk, a material known for its strength, flexibility and toughness. AMSilk produces Biosteel® fiber through a closed-loop biotechnological process that renders the product highly sustainable, with no petroleum inputs.

“We are excited to be working with Airbus, the world leader in performance airplanes, to create a fundamentally new material,” said Jens Klein, CEO of AMSilk. “At AMSilk, we are committed to producing materials that are both high-performing and sustainable, and the current partnership with Airbus is an opportunity to set a new, stronger and more sustainable course for the entire aerospace industry.”

AMSilk and Airbus are aiming to launch a prototype composite material in 2019.

About AMSilk

AMSilk GmbH is the world’s first industrial supplier of synthetic silk biopolymers and has its headquarters in Planegg near Munich, Germany. AMSilk’s high-performance biopolymers have the unique functional properties of the natural product they are based on. The organic high-performance material can be used in multiple ways, and is especially suited for medical devices as well as for personal care products. AMSilk high-performance biopolymers give such products unique properties. Among other things, the polymers are biocompatible, safe and robust.

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