Special Issue

Advance in Soft Tools and Tailor Blanks in Aerospace

Message from the Guest Editor

Research in manufacturing processes in the aircraft industry is aimed at cost reduction. Many different principles can be addressed, together with an increasing focus on sustainability. Two principles that aim for cost reductions are discussed in this Special Edition: the application of soft tools in manufacturing processes and the use of tailored blanks as input for those processes. The tailored blank concept is well established in the automotive industry but can be applied in other industries, such as in aerospace, not only on metallic parts, but also on composite parts. The idea is simple: reversing the forming and joining sequence to create cheaper blanks and to skip production steps. Additionally, the application of soft tools is cost-driven: The soft tool is universal (applicable to multiple part geometries), so there is no need for expensive matching dies. However, there is more: e.g., soft tools are applicable to work with special materials such as coated sheets and tailored blanks.

Guest Editor

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (31 December 2021)

Applied Sciences

an Open Access Journal by MDPI

Impact Factor 2.5
CiteScore 5.5

mdpi.com/si/65124

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mdpi.com/journal/applsci

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As the world of science becomes ever more specialized, researchers may lose themselves in the deep forest of the ever increasing number of subfields being created. This open access journal *Applied Sciences* has been started to link these subfields, so researchers can cut through the forest and see the surrounding, or quite distant fields and subfields to help develop his/her own research even further with the aid of this multi-dimensional network.

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