



# **Carbon Fibre in Mass Automotive Applications**

## **Challenges and Drivers for composites**

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Franco-British Symposium on Composite Materials 28<sup>th</sup> April

# Franco-British Symposium

## Agenda

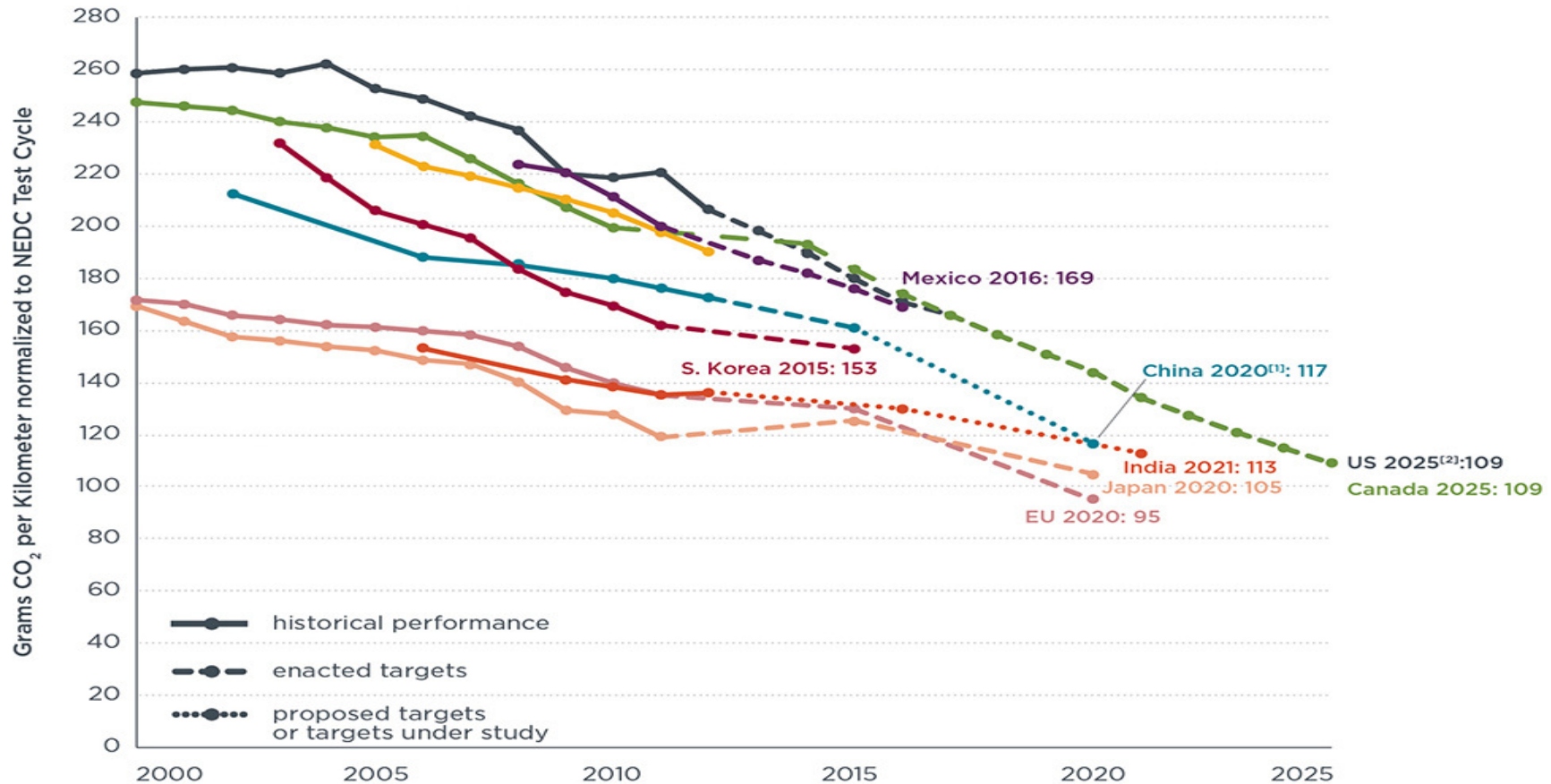
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- Drivers for Automotive Weight Saving
- JLR Light Weighting Strategy
- Composites Challenges – Cost and Sustainability
- Innovate UK Varcity Project
- Summary

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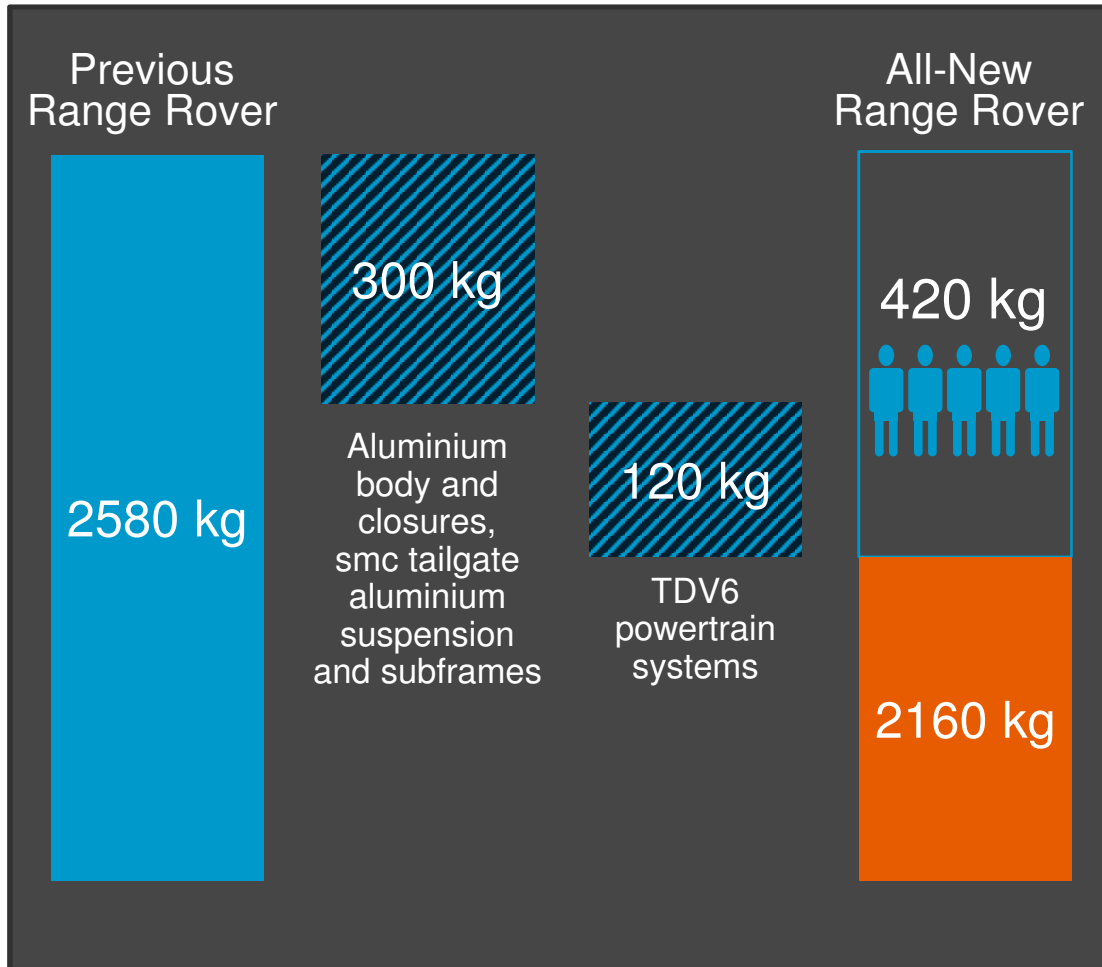
## The CO<sub>2</sub> Challenge



[1] China's target reflects gasoline vehicles only. The target may be higher after new energy vehicles are considered.  
 [2] US, Canada, and Mexico light-duty vehicles include light-commercial vehicles.  
 [3] Supporting data can be found at: <http://www.theicct.org/info-tools/global-passenger-vehicle-standards>

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## JLR Lightweighting Strategy



Target 400+ kg weight save

Reduced weight improves vehicle dynamics: agile, responsive handling on and off road

Aluminium and lightweight materials reduce overall carbon footprint



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## CFRP - Historical Perspective



Historically little has been done to reduce CFRP System cost on Motor racing & Supercars due to low production volumes & exotic complexity of products used to manufacture parts



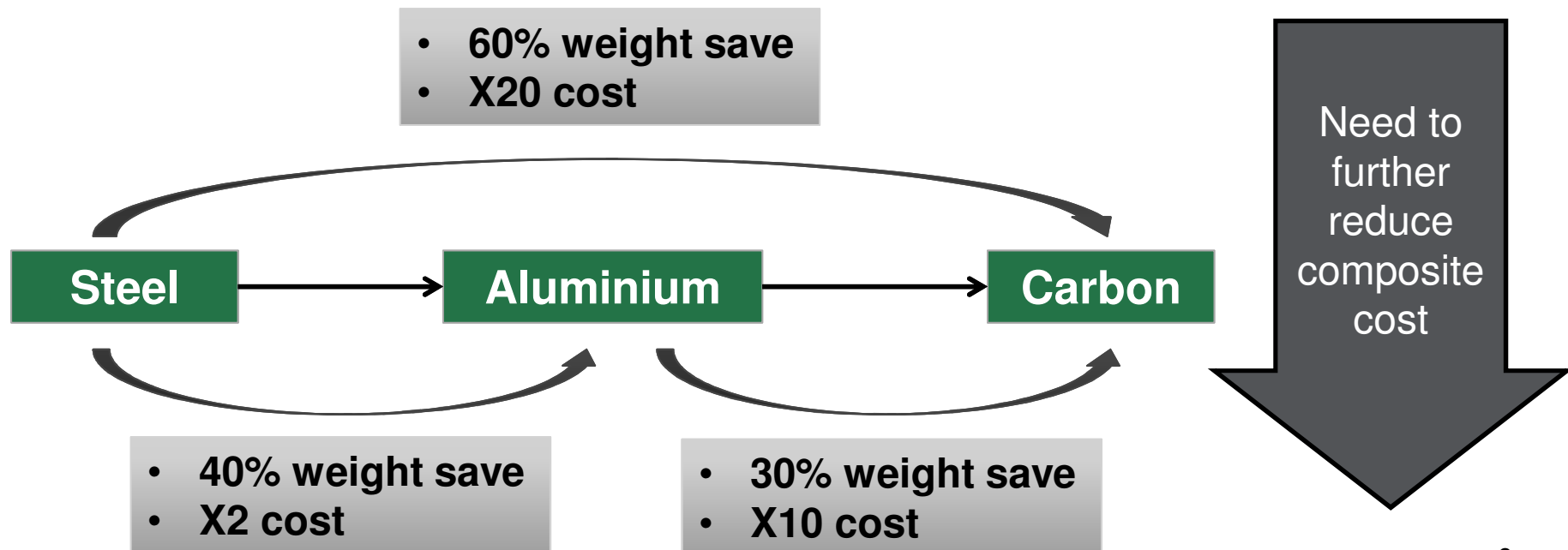
Focus on Performance – not CO2 reduction

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## Weight save vs. cost increase



- The key driver is weight save due to the increase in specific strength and stiffness that carbon fibre composites offer
- The key enabler to using carbon fibre is lower cost – high cost generally makes carbon fibre components prohibitive unless additional revenue can be made (e.g. cosmetic parts).



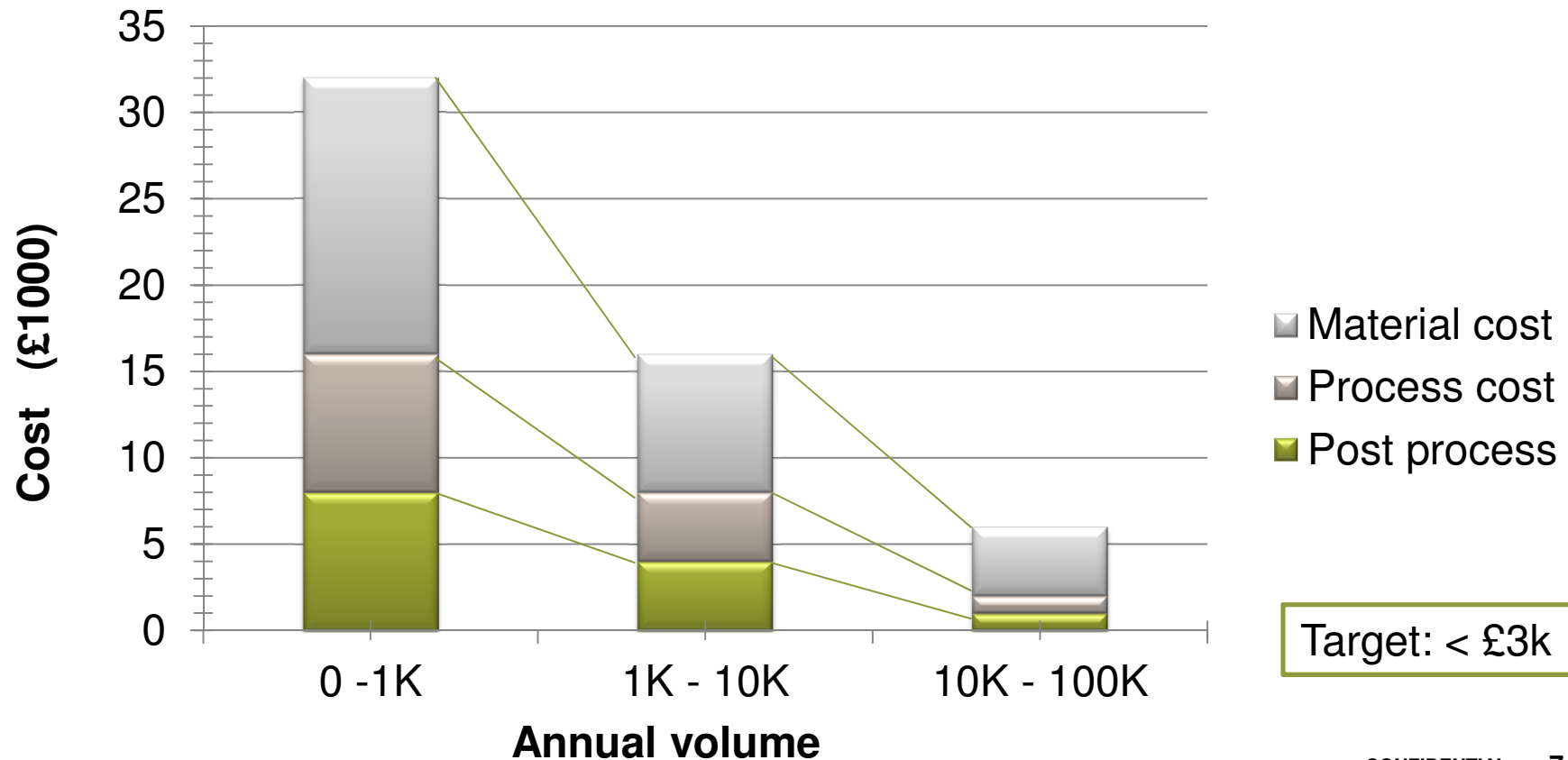


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## Cost vs. annual volume



To enable CFRP structures to be used in mass-produced vehicles, costs need to be further reduced

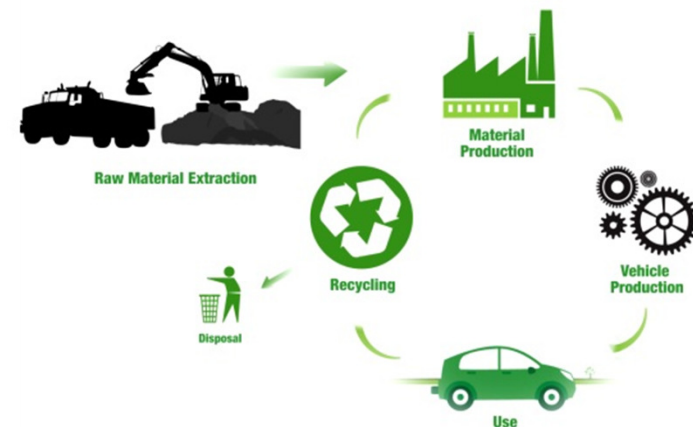


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## Environment



- Lower in-use CO<sub>2</sub>, the most significant % of Life Cycle Analysis (LCA)
- The light-weighting possibilities support the electric / hybrid vehicles need for super lightweight structures
- However, overall LCA and End of Life Vehicle (ELV) impact not as favourable as current BIW construction; JLR use up to 50% recycled aluminium which is easily recycled with current infrastructure and is infinitely recyclable
- Scrap rates of (some) manufacturing processes too high – pre-preg off cuts are challenging to up-cycle
- Alternative Solutions - Natural fibres, Thermoplastics, Glass,







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## Varcity: **V**ehicle **AR**chitectures **CITY** Cars

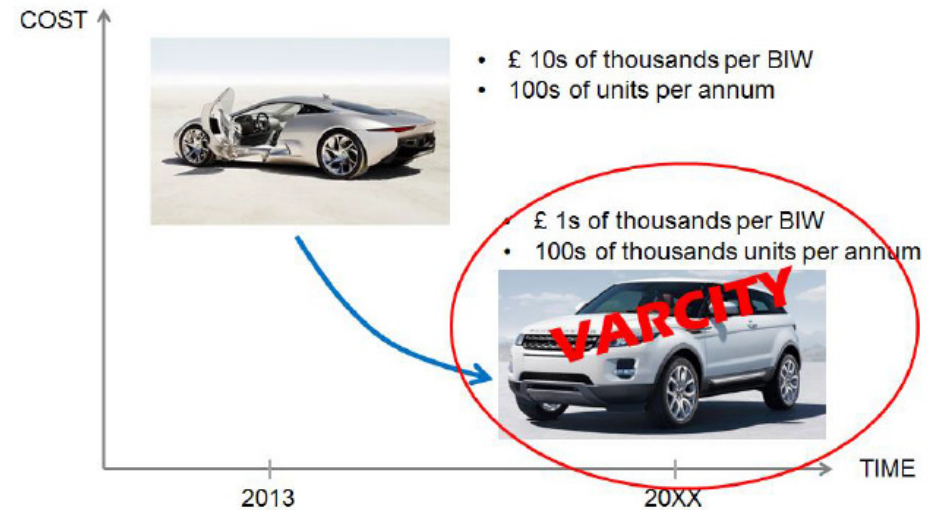
- 36 Month, Innovate UK Funded project total value £17million
- Premium city car for 2020
- Sustainable and economically viable proposition for volume production of Carbon Fibre Reinforced Plastic based composites
- A major goal of the project is the establishment of leading UK supply chain comprising the core industry partners
- The project also acts as a catalyst to stimulate the science, engineering and technology base to support the CO<sub>2</sub> and sustainability challenges facing the UK's automotive industry

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## Varcity



Varcity: Vehicle **AR**chitectures **CITY** Cars

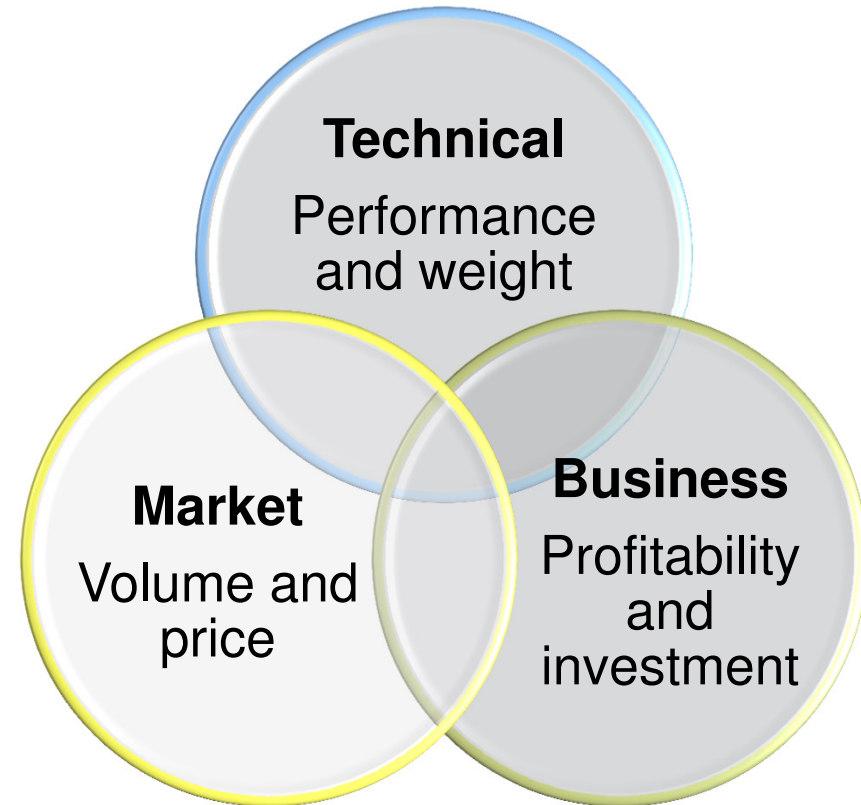
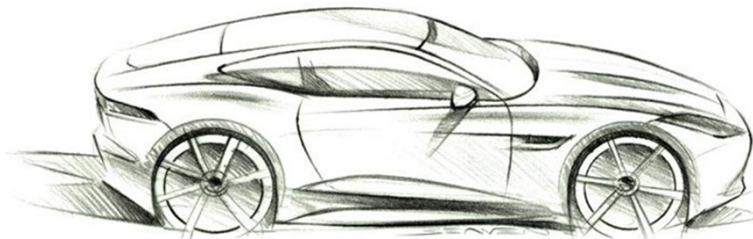


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## “The right material for the right part”

The aim of all JLR material choices is to develop product propositions that balance the technical, business and market equations whilst delivering CO<sub>2</sub> offset for the JLR fleet average





**Thank you**

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