

Seeking Sustainable Skin Composites as an Alternative for Leather and Synthetic Leather

Faurecia, a company of the Group FORVIA, is a tier-one automotive supplier with a carbon neutrality target over the coming years. Faurecia Interiors Systems and Faurecia Seating are important users of skins, artificial leather, and textiles for premium visual and haptic aspect. Usually, leather and PVC/PU (leatherette) are used as a covering material for the dashboard, door panel and seat. Each interior part has specific requirements in terms of skin properties (abrasion, mechanical, etc).



It is well known that leather has an important carbon footprint and moreover, adds recycling challenges when reaching end-of-life. The Sustainable Materials Division at Faurecia aims at **developing low carbon footprint alternative skins/artificial leather/textiles to decrease the emission factors of interior parts**. The visual and haptic aspect will also be a challenge for the final user validation.

Approaches of Interest:

- Identification of all kinds of substitutes or feedstock are of interest. Examples of **animal free leather** include **mycelial-based leather** (fungus, mycelium, mushroom), **plant-based/vegan/vegetal leather** from agro-wastes, **cellular-based leather** (collagen, protein), **biobased or recycled TPO/PU/PVC**
- **Incorporation of biomass in at least one layer of a multilayer covering material**
- Technological solutions with a focus on **mechanical performances, LCA, visual and haptic aspect, UV resistance, thermal aging, weathering, abrasion**
- **Key performance indicators** include, but not restricted to: standard thickness (~1.05 -1.25 mm), standard weight (~700-900 g/m²), price < 30€/m² (from 4 (low cost PVC) to 70 €/m² (premium leather)), emission factor < 3 kg CO₂/kg.

Stage of Development:

- Technology readiness level at TRL 2 and above is of interest, with a particular interest in technologies with a validated proof of concept






Submission Information:

Submission of one page, 200-300 word briefs are encouraged, along with any optional supplementary information e.g., relevant publications and patents. In submitting to this campaign, you confirm that your submission contains only non-confidential information.

Opportunity for Collaboration:

Faurecia is open to a wide range of collaboration opportunities and are keen to discuss all potential avenues of collaboration. Possible outcomes include, but not limited to: licencing of assets, investment, project/PhD funding, and research collaborations.

Opportunities sought

-  Technologies
-  Academics and expertise
-  Centres of excellence
-  Research projects
-  Spinout companies

Submissions

Please submit relevant, non-confidential opportunities online [here](#)

Deadline: **5th September 2022 - 10:59 pm GMT**

Have any questions?

Contact our team at discover@in-part.co.uk

