MMLV Project Team

The MMLV project was led by representatives of Magna International and Ford Motor Company, namely Tim Skszek and Jeff Conklin of Magna International and Matt Zaluzec and David Wagner of Ford Motor Company.

Tim Skszek - leads the Magna International R&D Government Partnership activity in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) region. Tim is the Principal Investigator of the MMLV program, managing the interface between the government agencies, Ford Motor Company, and Magna project teams to realize successful project execution, reporting, and compliance. As a sub-recipient of the Mg Front End Program, Tim led the Magna resources associated with the Ford F-150 and GM Cadillac CTS front end project activities including vehicle design, predictive analysis, durability, and high strain rate testing. Tim is a subject matter expert in the areas of metal casting, warm forming of Mg and Al, and life cycle analysis. He joined Magna International in 2003, preceded by careers in additive manufacturing, robotics and magnetics. He holds a master’s degree in metallurgical engineering in 1980 from the University of Wisconsin and is a registered Professional Engineer.

Jeff Conklin - Engineering Department Manager at Cosma Engineering. Jeff led the development of the MMLV program, which was a joint program with Ford Motor Company and co-funded by the United States Department of Energy. Jeff joined Cosma in 1994 as a co-op engineering student and has held many positions within the company over the past 20 years. As an Engineering Manager over the past six years, he has been involved in chassis and body structure programs with a focus on ultra-high-strength steels and aluminum casting products. Jeff earned a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from GMI Engineering & Management Institute, currently Kettering University, in 1998, and a master’s degree in mechanical engineering from Oakland University in 2003.

Matt Zaluzec - Global Materials and Manufacturing Senior Technical Leader at Ford Motor Company. Zaluzec directs and provides materials and manufacturing strategy for a world class staff of engineers and scientists encompassing a diverse field of disciplines, including materials science, advanced manufacturing engineering, analytical chemistry, polymer science, CAE, and computational modeling. He has a proven track record in establishing product specific development programs directed at reducing cost and weight, improving quality and ensuring long term product reliability. Zaluzec holds over 40 U.S. patents and has published over 80 technical papers. Matt joined Ford Motor Company in 1990 after completing a doctorate in materials science and engineering from the University of Illinois. He earned a bachelor’s degree in metallurgical engineering in 1984, also from the University of Illinois.

David Wagner – Technical Leader Lightweight Vehicle Design at Ford Motor Company. David leads a research and advanced engineering group investigating and implementing lightweight structural systems for future vehicles to meet functional requirements while minimizing weight, cost, and manufacturing complexity. Recently Wagner and his team helped develop the lightweight frame and aluminum cab and cargo box for the 2015 F-150 pickup truck. David has expertise in body, closures and chassis design, body construction, vehicle systems engineering, plus expertise in lightweight metals and composites, structural adhesives, and finite element analysis. Wagner joined Ford Motor Company in 1990. He holds a doctorate in mechanical engineering from Stanford University, 1990, and bachelor’s and master’s degrees in civil engineering from the University of Notre Dame.