

## **New manufacturing process for fuel cell plates**

Hull/finmac Inc., the United States, reports a new development in the production of thermoset fuel cell plates. Compression moulding technique has been identified as the ideal solution that provides a high-yield system for repeatable moulding of a thermoset compound that provides high density, high conductivity and low weight. The company has introduced its new FC series of fast-acting compression presses that feature closed-loop controls coupled with a new deflashing system. While in operation, the loading system of the press moves into the mould area and dispenses moulding compound into the cavities. An unloading system removes the plates and holds them flat while transporting them from the mould area.

According to Hull/finmac, precise control of the press was a key design factor. The FC presses are equipped with a DFEE variable piston pump that features an electro-hydraulic control system said to provide the required precision. A closed-loop control of the press is provided by Hull/finmac software, which enables adjustments to be made “instantaneously” from a touch screen display monitor. The deflashing system was developed to clean flash from the moulded parts and remove the thin resin-rich surface film found on some thermoset parts without damaging fine details. *Contact: Hull finmac Inc., 21, BonAir Drive, Warminster, PA 18974, the United States. Tel: +1 (215) 4418 163; Fax: +1 (215) 4418 168; Web-site: [www.hullcorp.com](http://www.hullcorp.com).*

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