

Design of a High-Efficiency Vehicle: Converting a Toyota Hilux to Electric Drive for the Dakar Rally

2028

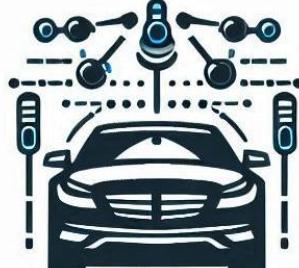
Presented by: Team 1



Global Challenge Context

Design and manufacture of systems for either high speed or high efficiency vehicles

- Structure for manufacturing facility
- Automotive Systems
- Sensors and Control Systems



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Our Solution/Business Case

To compete in the Dakar Rally using a modified Toyota Hilux, powered by Toyota's innovative solid-state battery technology



- Toyota Hilux Conversion
 - Electric drive
 - Twin motor
 - New solid-state battery technology



TOYOTA'S BATTERY TECHNOLOGY ROADMAP

	TODAY	NEXT-GENERATION		FURTHER EVOLUTION		
	2023	2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2027-2028	TBD
Battery for bZ4X	Monopolar		Bipolar	N/A	N/A	
Electrolyte type		Liquid			Solid	
Chemistry	Li-Ion		LiFePO ^{*1}		Li-Ion	
Driving range (WLTP)	500km	> 800km	> 600km	> 1,000km	> 1,000km	> 1,200km
Cost	-	-20% vs bZ4X	-40% vs bZ4X	-10% vs NG performance version	TBD	TBD
Fast charge time ^{*2}	~30 min.	~20 min.	~30 min.	~20 min.	~10 min.	TBD

^{*1} Lithium iron phosphate

^{*2} SoC = 10-80%

NOTE: Established driving range includes aerodynamic and vehicle weight improvements

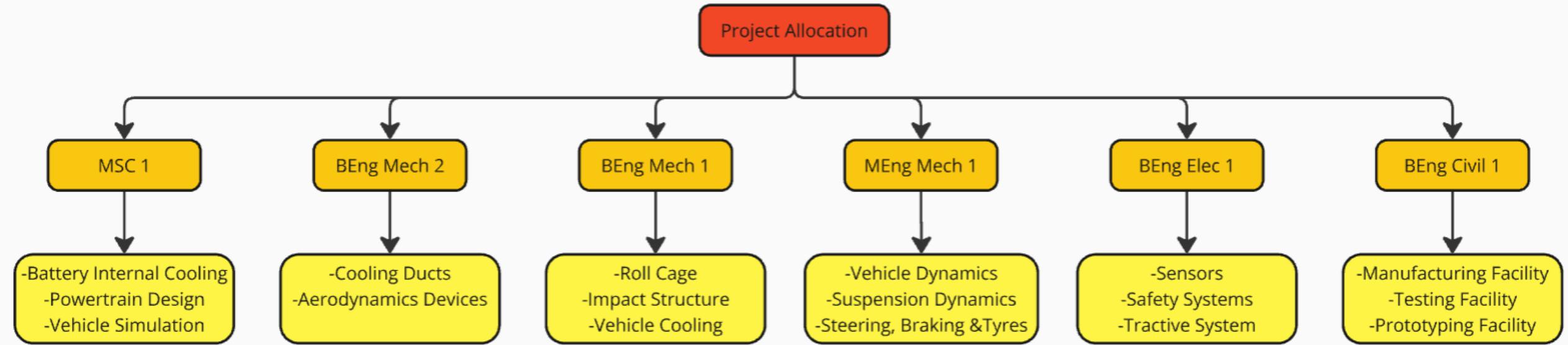


UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Group Allocation



Sustainable Development Goals

Goal 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy



Goal 9 - Industry, Innovation, Infrastructure



Goal 11 - Sustainable cities and communities



Goal 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production



Goal 13 - Climate Action



Goal 15 - Life on Land



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

The Wider Impacts - RISK

- Environmental Impacts – manufacturing and disposing of battery.
- Supply Chain & Material Sourcing – carbon fibre is not very environmentally friendly.
- Safety & Regulations – battery accidents can be more deadly than IC engine accidents.
- Financial/Investment Risks – not enough companies would sponsor or fund the project.



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

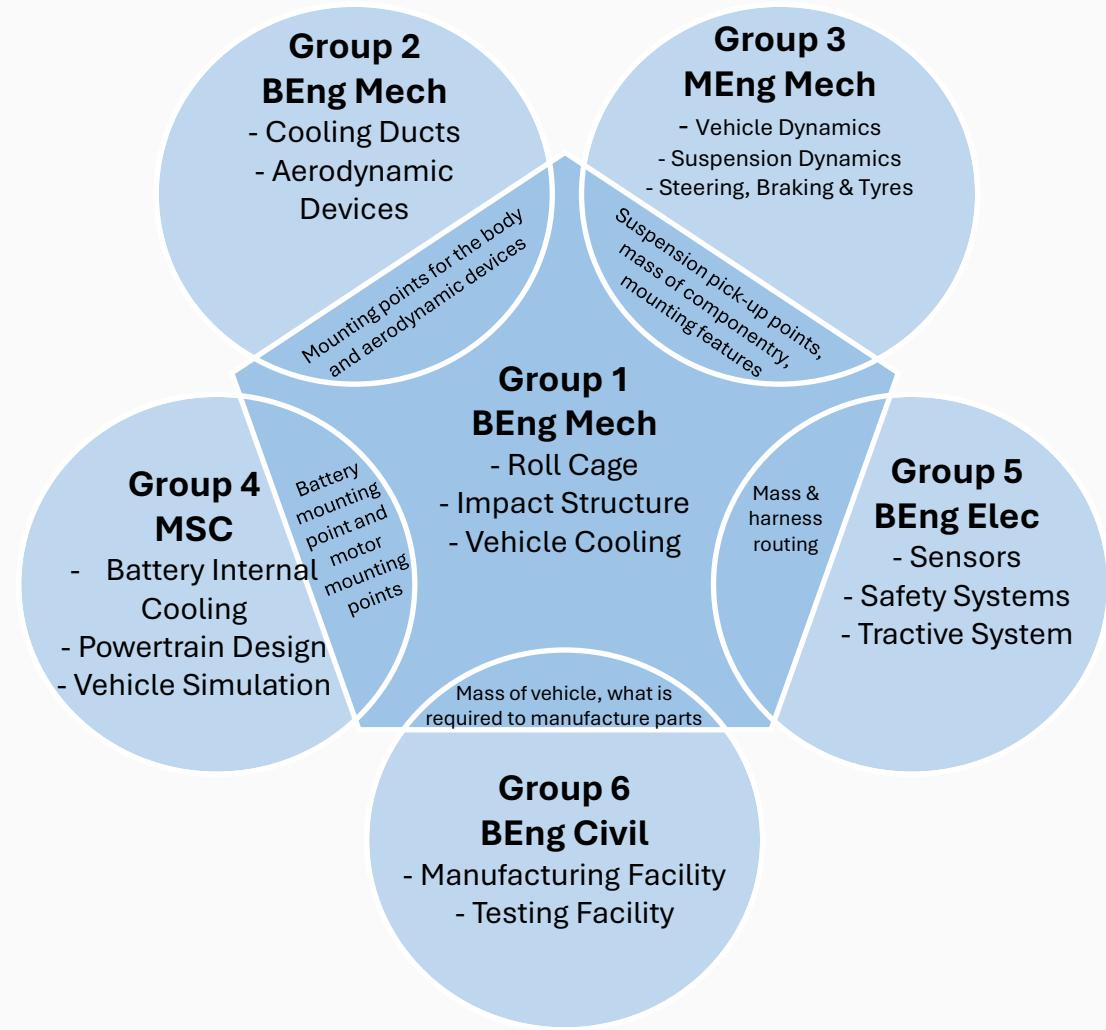
125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

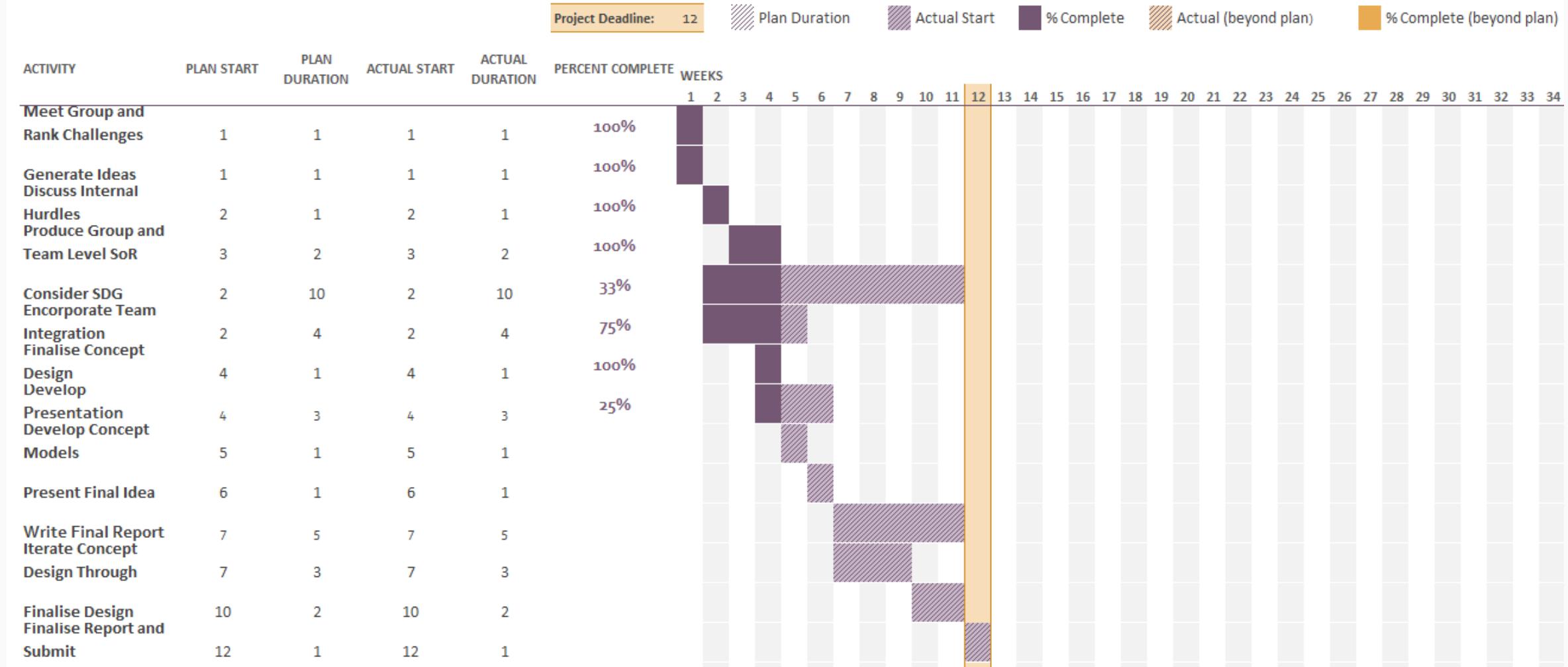
Team Integration

Methods employed to ensure excellent team integration:

- Regular group leader meetings
- Regular inter-group meetings
- Cloud-based document systems
- Purpose-made integration meetings.
- Integration module as shown in figure X to visualise each team integration.



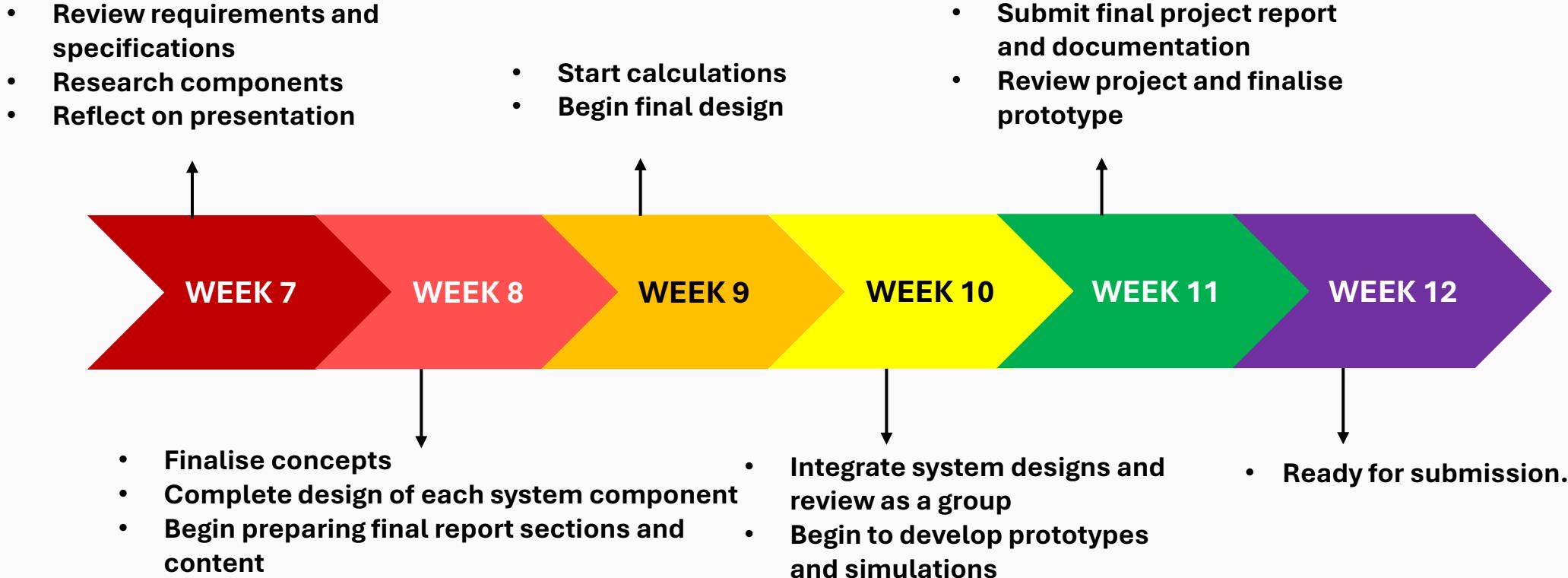
Gantt Chart



UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

125
years

Future Plans



Q&A



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



125
years
We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Battery and Powertrain Design

Group- MSc 1



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



125
years
We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Introducing the Group



Haokun Wang
Battery Engineer
Coordinator



Shaojie Jia
Powertrain Engineer
Implementor



Yuntao Xu
Battery Engineer
Development



Ao Li
Battery Engineer
Development



Tiannuo Guo
Powertrain Engineer
Researcher



Junzhi Huang
Battery Engineer
Specialist



Mingyang Liu
Battery cooling Engineer
Implementor



Xinyuan Li
Battery Cooling Engineer
Research

Key:
Group Role-
Belbin Result-



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

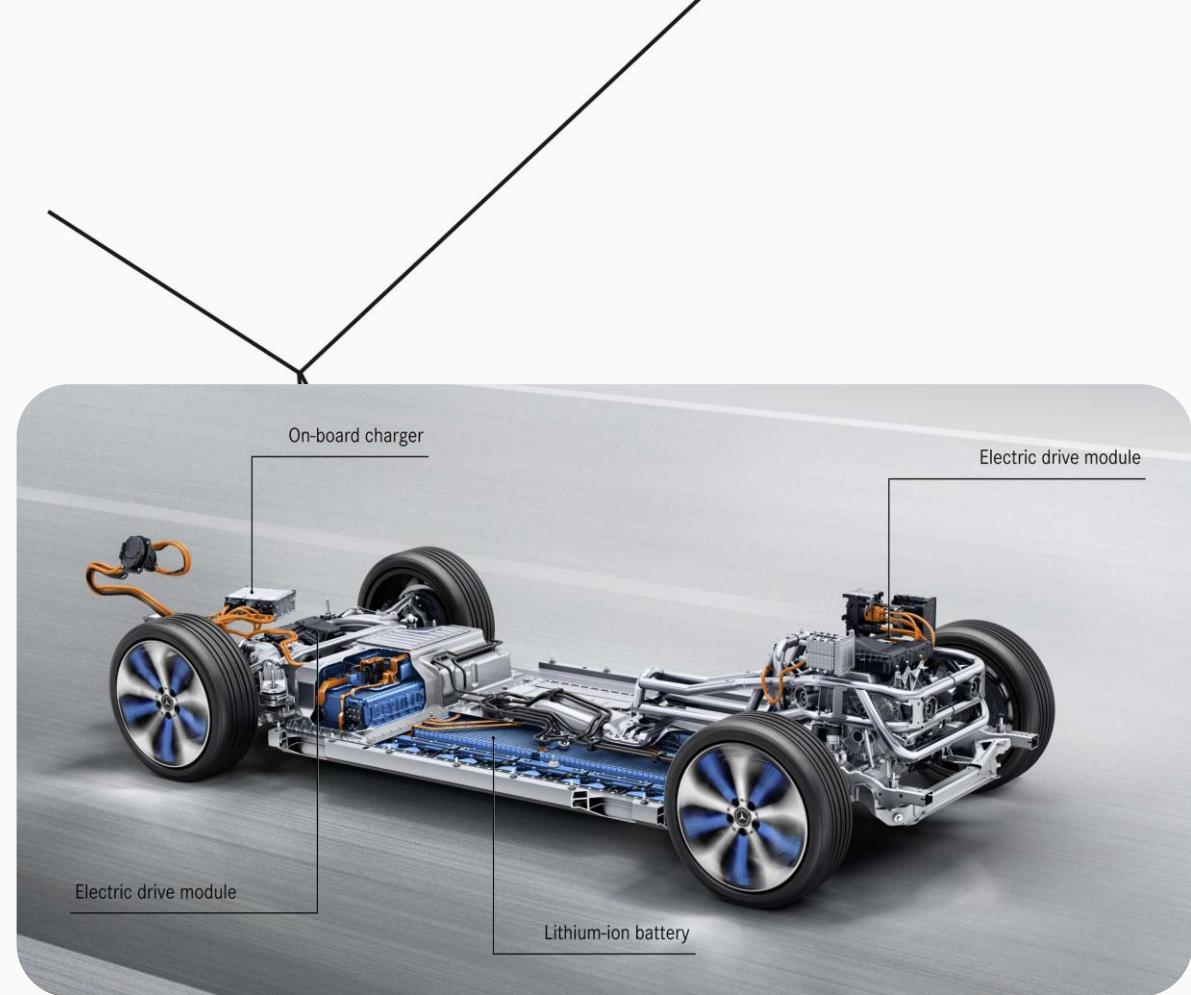
Group Activities/Goals

Purpose:

- Develop a sustainable and durable vehicle.
- Ensure high performance under extreme conditions.
- Achieve a zero-emission target for a cleaner future.

Aim:

- Convert the Toyota Hilux into a fully electric vehicle for the Dakar Rally 2028.
- Implement cutting-edge battery and drivetrain technology.
- Promote climate action and innovation in motorsports.



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Team Integration

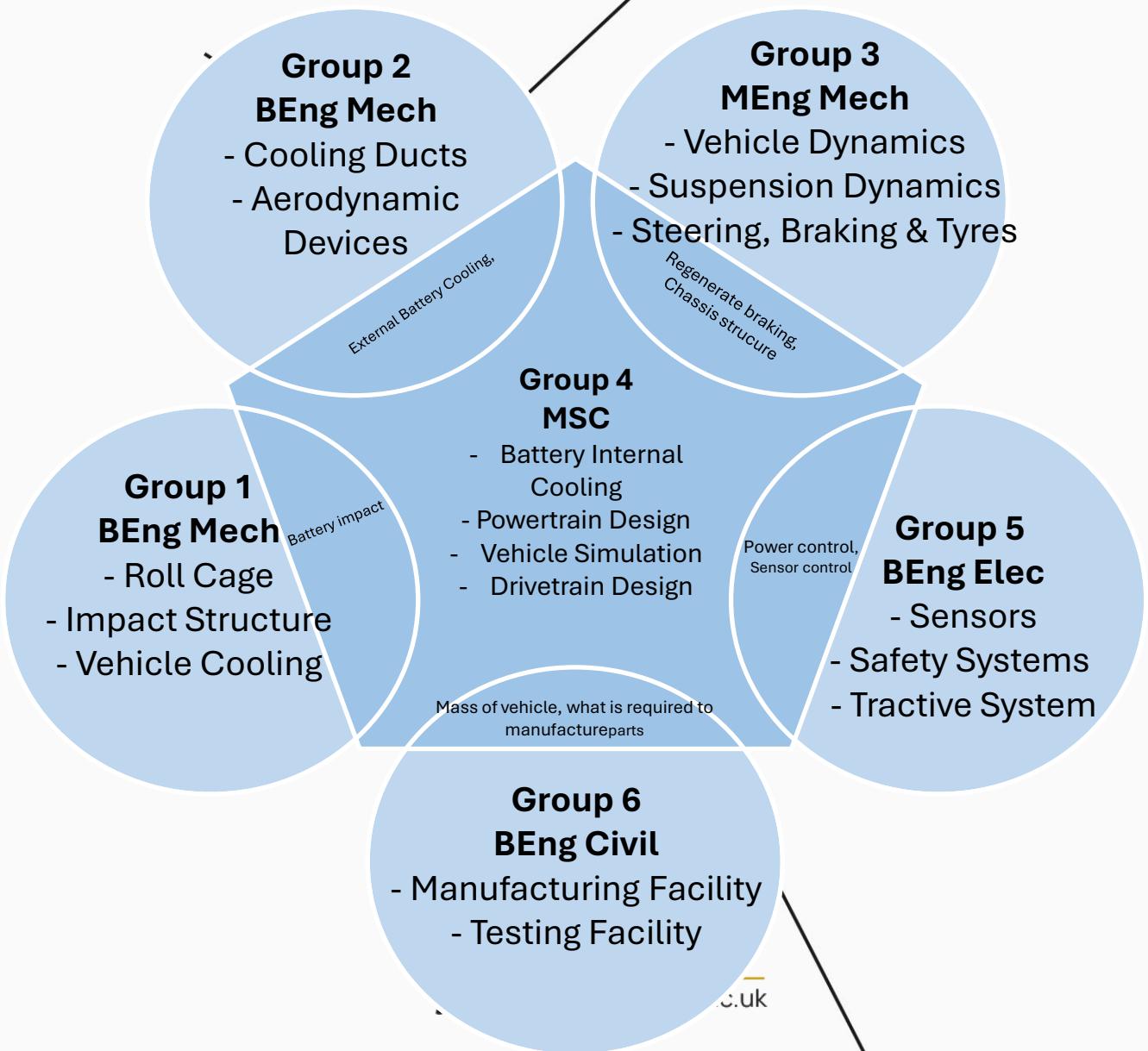
Group 1 – Battery impact

Group 2 – External Battery Cooling

Group 3 – Regenerate braking,
Chassis structure

Group 5 – Power control,
Sensor control

Group 6 - Manufacture of vehicle,
Simulation



Motor

Targets Power-Output

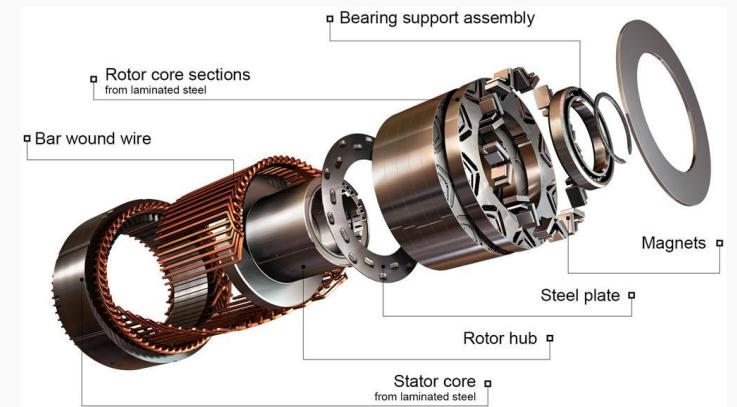
- Max.Power-298 kW.
- Max.Torque-500Nm.
- Top Speed-204km/h.

Motor Selection

- AC Permanent Magnet Synchronous Motor (PMSM)(Sankhwar, 2024).
- 400KW+ of peak power and 600Nm of peak torque which provide an excellent power and torque performance (YASA P400R; Cascadia Motion iM 225; Tesla Model S Plaid rear motor).
- Better balance of efficiency combining with dual motor layout.

TOYOTA GAZOO RACING			
Mark	TOYOTA	Weight	2000 kg
Model	HILUX IMT EVO	Performance tuner	Toyota Gazoo Racing
Engine	twin-turbo V6 engine of 3.5 litres	Assistance	Toyota Gazoo Racing
Power	298 kW of power and appro	Class	T1+: Prototype Cross-Country Cars 4x4

Power and drive system from the reference vehicle (Dakar.com, 2025).



An layout of the AC PMSM (Lee, Shin and Bak, 2018).



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Drive System & Transmission

All Wheel Drive (AWD) System

- Dual motor layout with computer-controlled torque vectoring.
- Enhance traction force for loosen surface.
- Better energy regenerated efficiency.
- Improves vehicle controllability (Mosin et al., 2023).

Multi-Speed Gearbox (Lacock, du Plessis and Booysen, 2023)

- Provides different torque across speeds.
- Optimize the power output for different terrians.
- More adaptable in long distance and mixed terrian rallys(Lacock, du Plessis and Booysen, 2023).

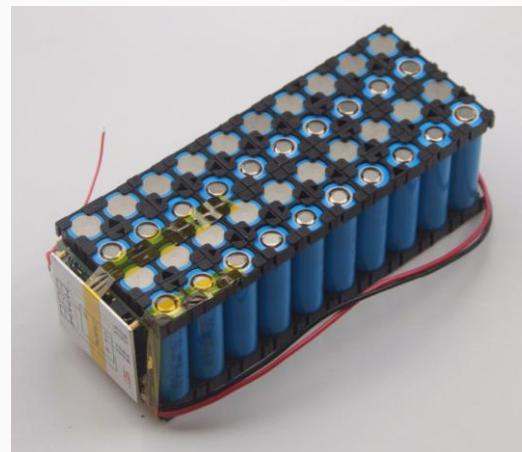
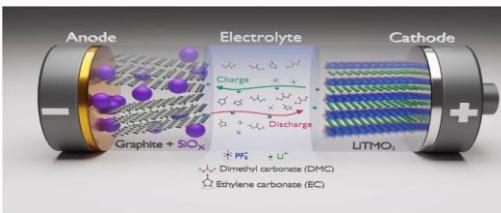
Feature	AWD	RWD	FWD
Traction	Excellent	Weak on loosen surface	Poor off-road performance
Handling	Precise steering	Oversteer	Understeer
Terrain adaptability	All surfaces	Weak on deep sand	Weak on hills,mud,an d sand
Braking efficiency	On all wheels	Limited regeneration	Front wheel only

Table 1. Performance of different drive systems.



Battery

- High Voltage Battery Type: Lithium Iron Phosphate
- Parameters: High theoretical capacity
Excellent chemical stability
Superior thermal stability
Long cycle life
- Requirement: Single length: 200-900km
- Maximum battery range : 1000 km on a single charge.



Low Voltage Battery

- Used for Emergency situation
- Emergency calls and GPS
- Data analysis
- Record driving data



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

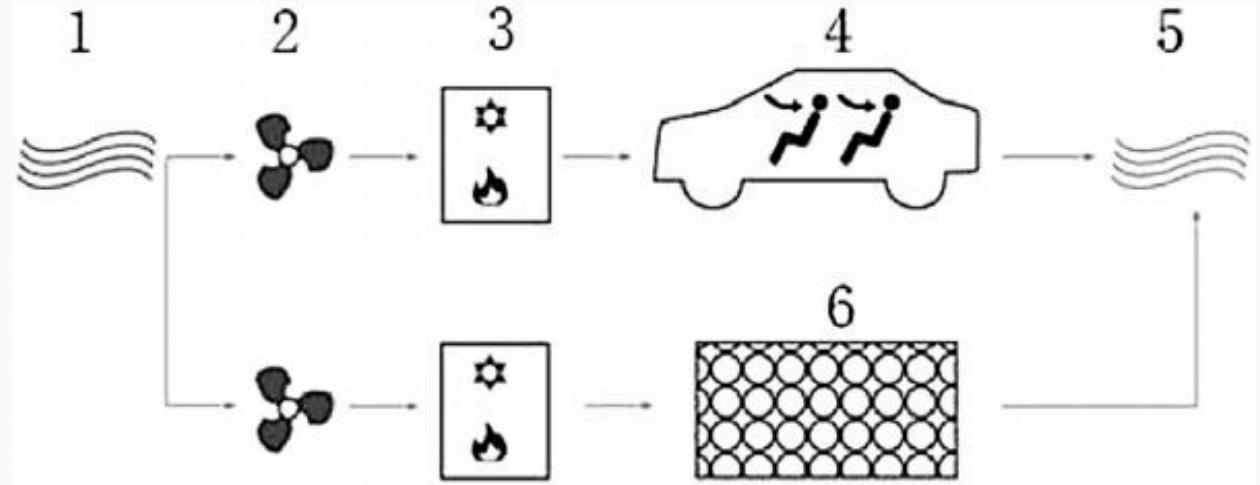
125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Battery cooling system

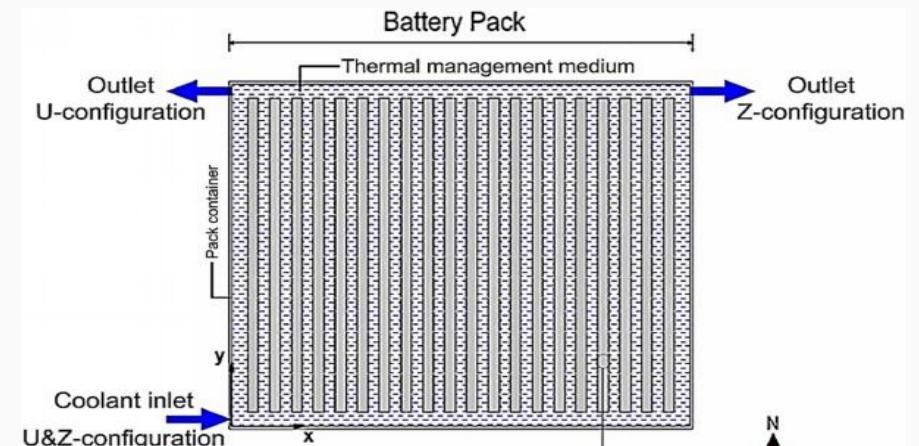
Air-cooling systems (BTMS)

- Simple in design, light in weight, low in cost and easy to maintain.
- The low heat capacity of air limits its application under high-speed and high-temperature conditions. It is difficult to achieve uniform air distribution.



Direct liquid cooled (silicon oil)

- The heat dissipation efficiency is higher and the heat dissipation performance is better. The structure is more compact.
- There is a risk of leakage and the cooling system is relatively heavy.



125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk



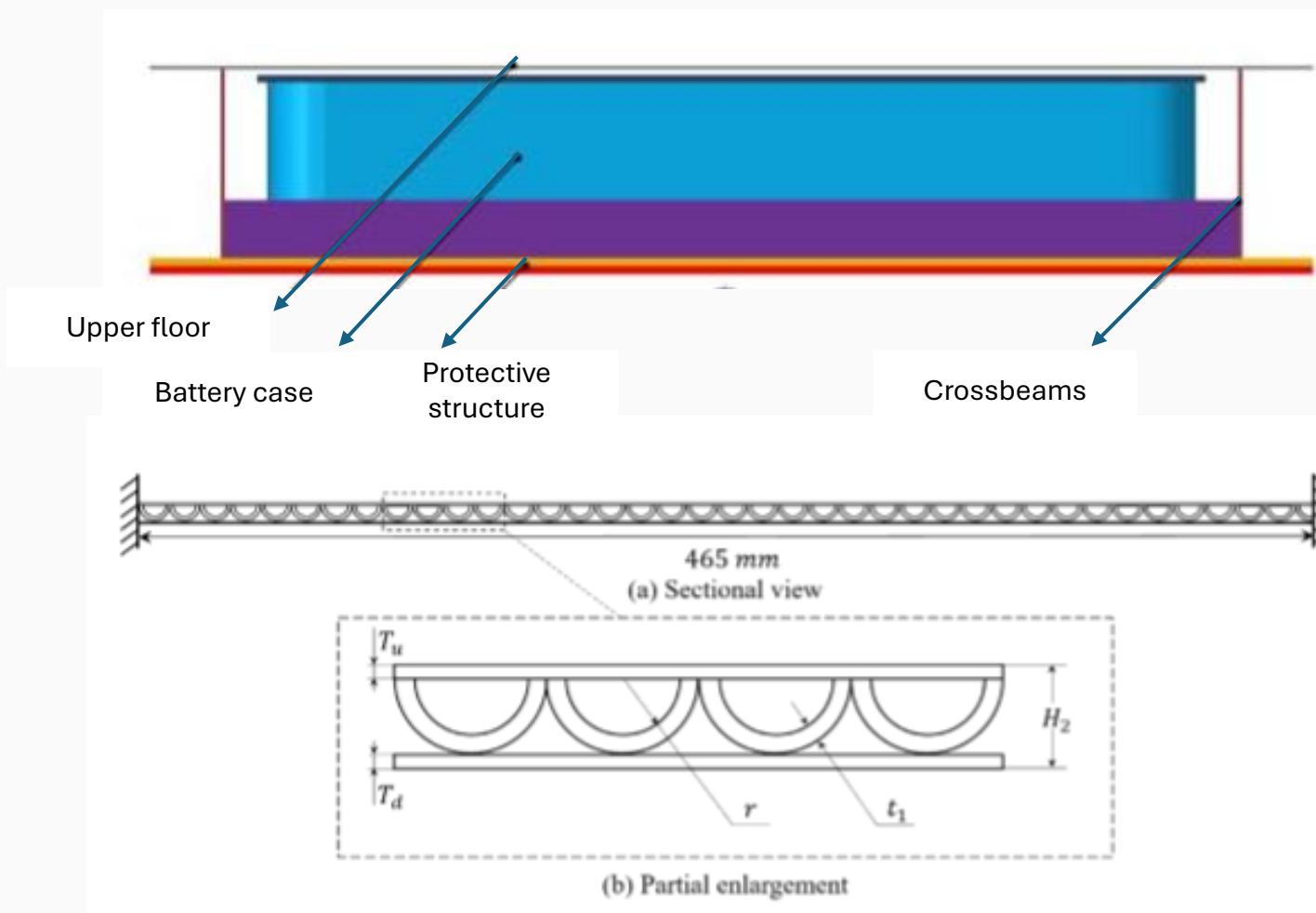
UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Battery Protection

Strategy:

Arched Sandwich Structure +
Aluminum

- Lowest deformation
- Highest energy absorption
- Reinforced hexagonal honeycomb sandwich structure
- Recommended material: **7075-T6 aluminum** (high strength & energy absorption capability)



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Battery Swapping Stop

Type (Ahmad, F. 2020) :

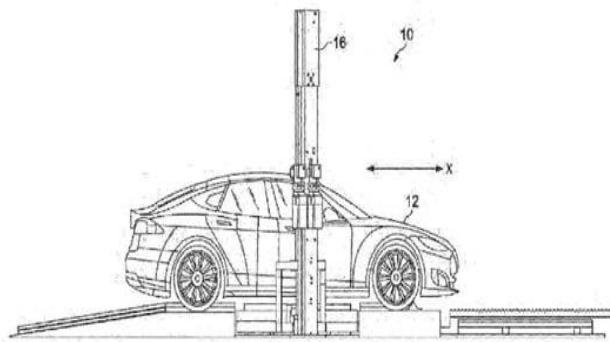
- 1.Sideways swapping: vans (most convenient).
- 2.Rear swapping: battery is placed from backwards (large boot space).
- 3.**Bottom swapping:** Battery is placed at the bottom of the vehicle.
- 4.Top swapping: Electric buses.

Realize the functional sequence (Adegbohun, F. 2019):

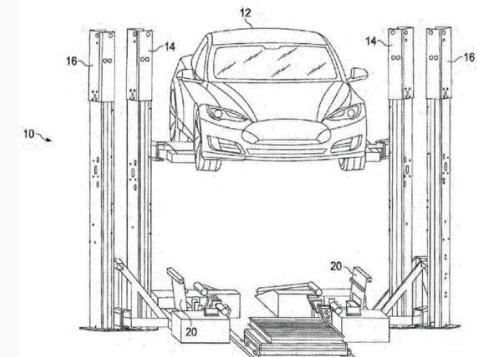
Vehicle positioning, Vehicle lifting (air jacks), Battery removal, replacement and installation (datum pins and nut runners), Vehicle lowering. (About 3-5 minutes)

Future:

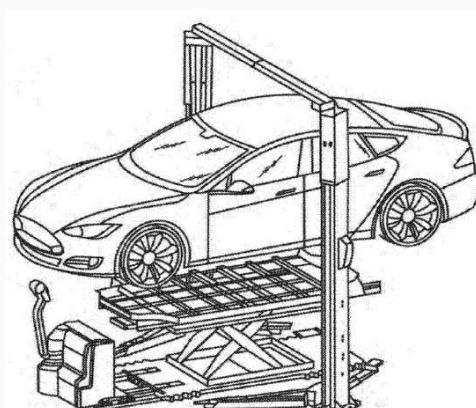
1. Specific Model Design (Size, Material, et al.)
2. Disassemble and installed method.
3. Lifting and lowering vehicle method.



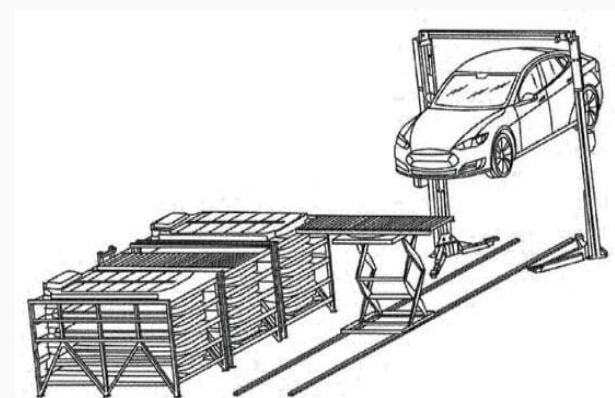
(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

Battery Swapping Principle



Sustainability

Zero Emission

Electric Vehicles (EV) : Reduce CO2 emissions with clean energy.

Renewable Energy Charging: Solar and wind-powered charging stations.

Lightweight Materials: Advanced composites reduce energy consumption.



Recyclable

Sustainable Materials: Use of recyclable aluminum, carbon fiber composites.

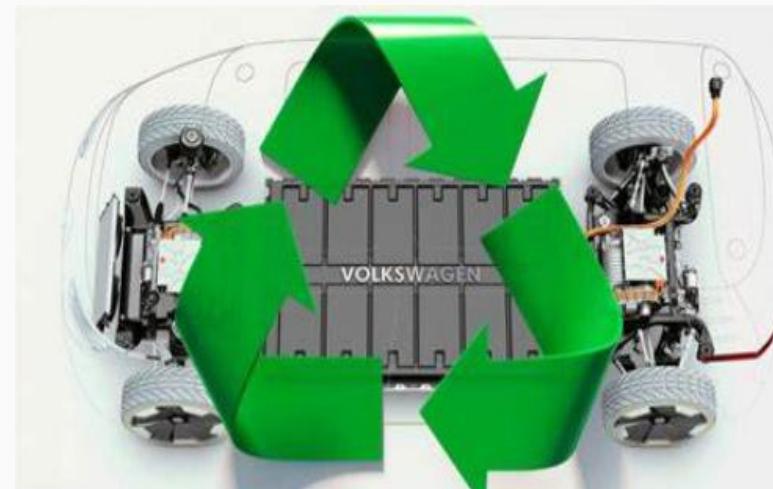
Modular Design: Easy disassembly for parts reuse and upgrades.

Reusable

Battery Recycling: Repurpose used EV batteries for energy storage.

3D Printing & Remanufacturing: Utilize recycled materials for component production.

Regenerated Tires: Use of sustainable rubber for longer-lasting tires.



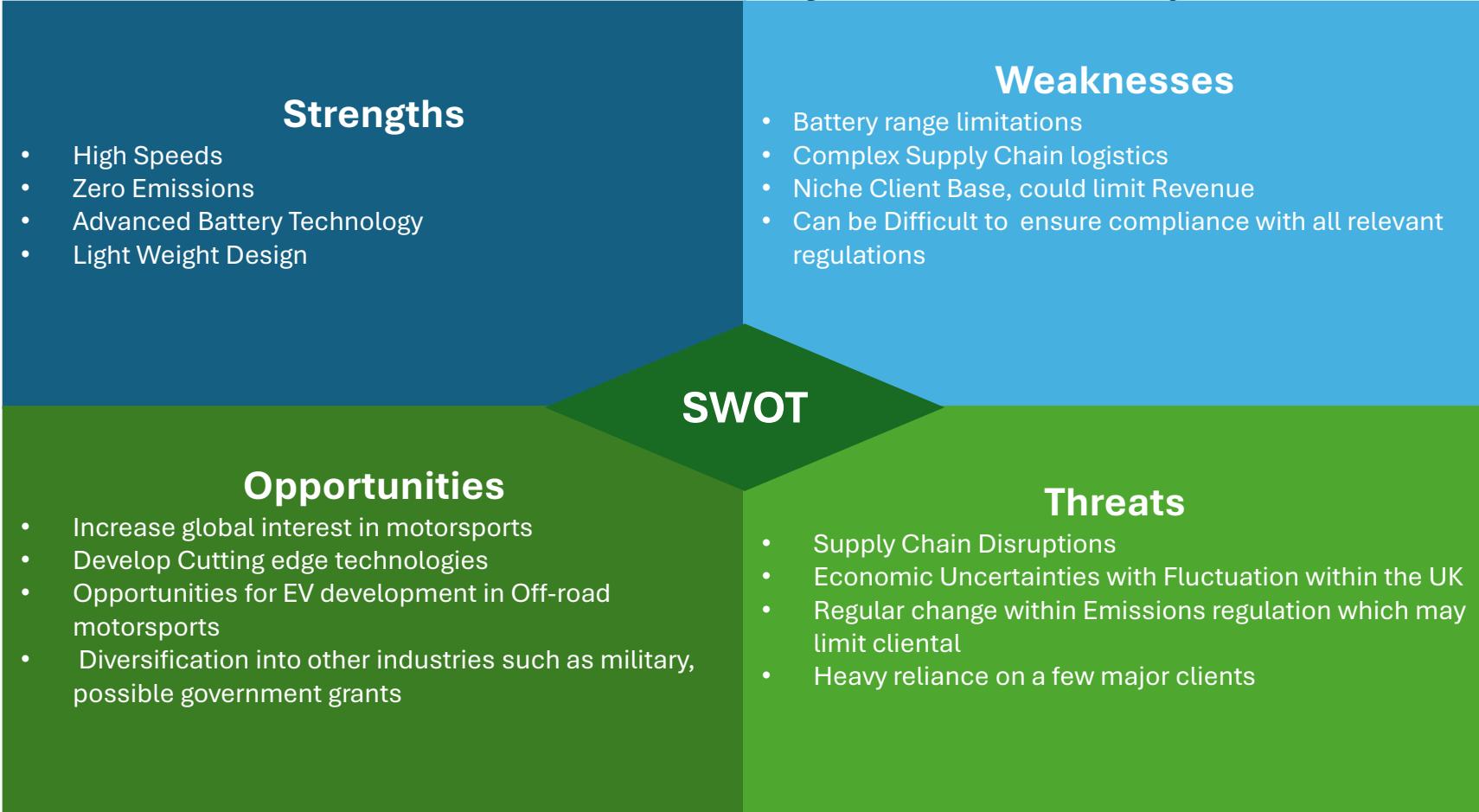
125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

SWOT Analysis

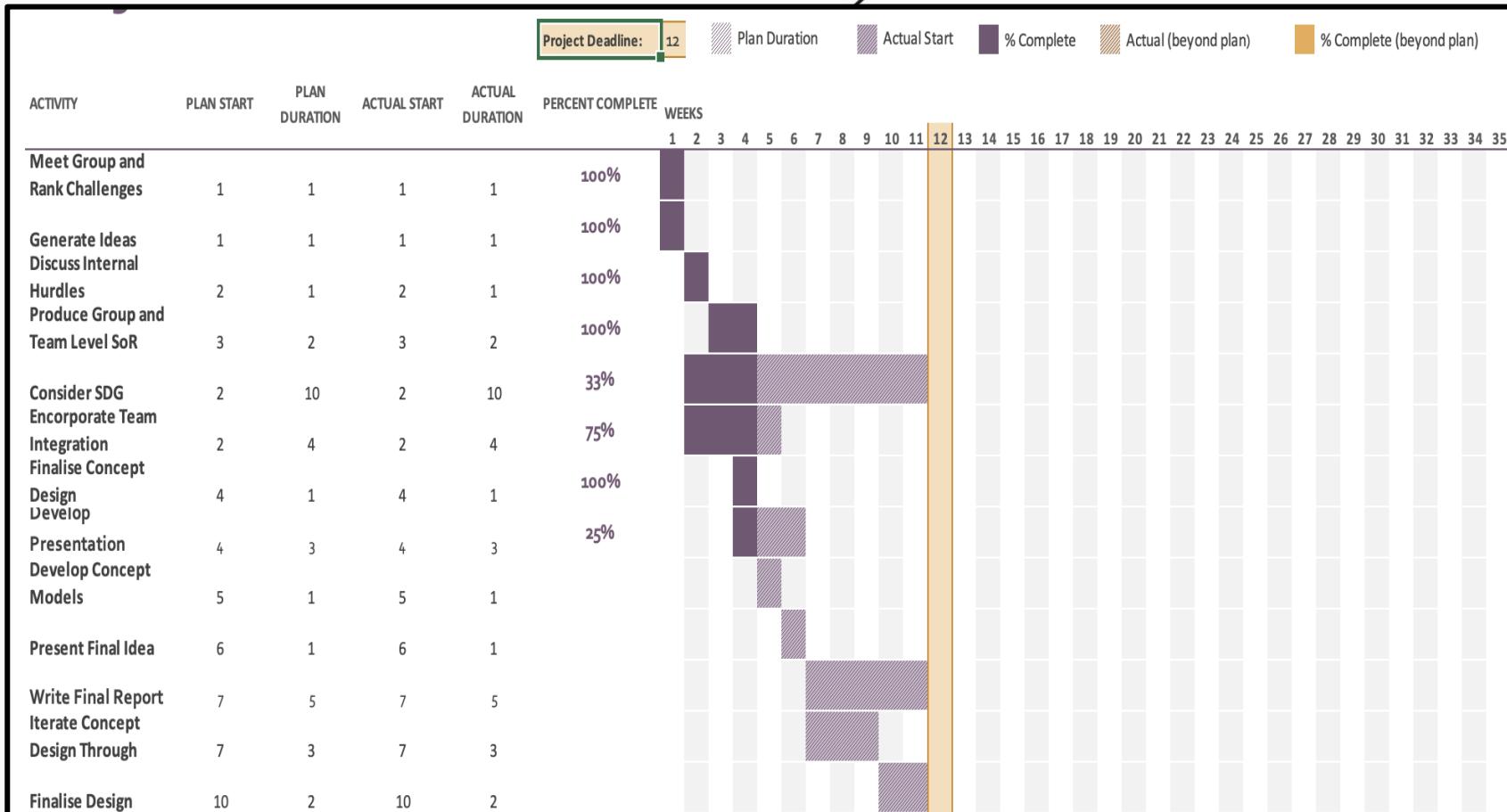


UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years
We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Future Plan

- CAD Modelling
 - Battery and Motor Calculation
 - CFD for Battery Cooling
 - FEA of Battery Protection
 - IPG Carmaker Simulation



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

We celebrate
We activate

birmingham.ac.uk

References

- Ahmad, F., Saad Alam, M., Saad Alsaidan, I. and Shariff, S.M., 2020. Battery swapping station for electric vehicles: opportunities and challenges. *IET Smart Grid*, 3(3), pp.280-286.)
- Adegbohun, F., Von Jouanne, A. and Lee, K.Y., 2019. Autonomous battery swapping system and methodologies of electric vehicles. *Energies*, 12(4), p.667.
- Lacock, S., du Plessis, A.A. and Booysen, M.J. (2023). Electric Vehicle Drivetrain Efficiency and the Multi-Speed Transmission Question. *World Electric Vehicle Journal*, [online] 14(12), p.342.
- Mosin, M., Popov, N., Anibroev, V., Vilberger, M. and Domakhin, E. (2023). Engine power distribution system for four-wheel drive autonomous electric vehicle. *Energy Reports*, [online] 9, pp.115–122.
- Sankhwar, P. (2024). Application of Permanent Magnet Synchronous Motor for Electric Vehicle. *Indian Journal of Design Engineering*, 4(2), pp.1–6.
- Dakar.com. (2025). *Profile of HENK LATEGAN - TOYOTA GAZOO RACING - Dakar*. [online] Available at: <https://www.dakar.com/en/competitor/211> [Accessed 20 Feb. 2025].
- Thakur, A.K., Prabakaran, R., Elkadeem, M.R., Sharshir, S.W., Arıcı, M., Wang, C., Zhao, W., Hwang, J.-Y. and Saidur, R. (2020c). A state of art review and future viewpoint on advance cooling techniques for Lithium–ion battery system of electric vehicles. *Journal of Energy Storage*, [online] 32, p.101771. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.est.2020.101771>.



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Q&A



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



125
years
We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Roll Cage, Impact Structure and Cooling System Design

Group- BEng Mechanical 1



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years
We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Introducing Group 1



Edward Crossley
Group Leader
Coordinator



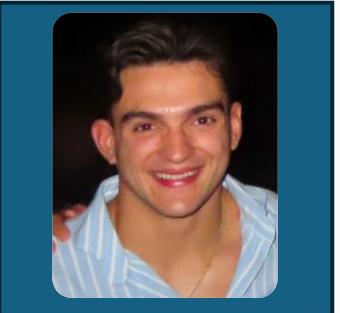
Luis Sobrino
Roll Cage Lead
Resource Investigator



Dhaivat Kothary
Roll Cage Engineer
Team Player



Fynn Jones
Impact Structure Lead
Resource Investigator



Carlos Romero
Impact Structure Engineer
Implementor



Gabriel Brown
Impact Structure
Engineer
Specialist



Hadi Lee
Cooling Lead
Implementor



Sadik Berk Syin
Cooling Engineer
Specialist



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Key:
Name-
Group Role-
Belbin Result-

125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Group Activities/Goals

Group tasks:

- Roll Cage Design
 - To comply with all technical regulations.
 - To be able to withstand impact loads.
 - To be below **200 kg**.
- Impact Structure Design
 - To comply with all technical regulations.
 - To protect the battery and underside of the vehicle.
 - To be below **80 kg**.
- Cooling System Design
 - To comply with all technical regulations.
 - Keep powertrain components at an optimum temperature.
 - To be below **20 kg**.



Image courtesy of: <https://www.metrosteel.com.au/ten-top-tips-to-building-the-perfect-roll-cage/>

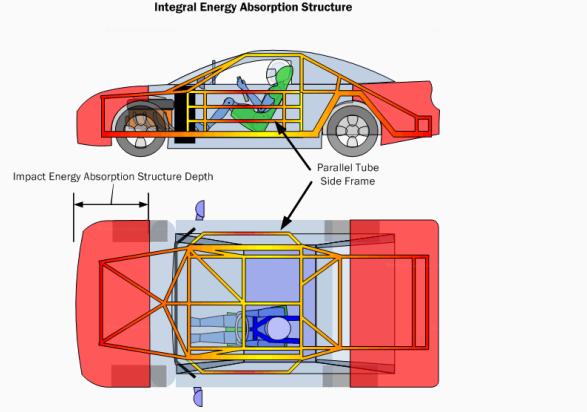


Image courtesy of:
<https://www.buildyourownracecar.com/race-car-safety-and-design/>

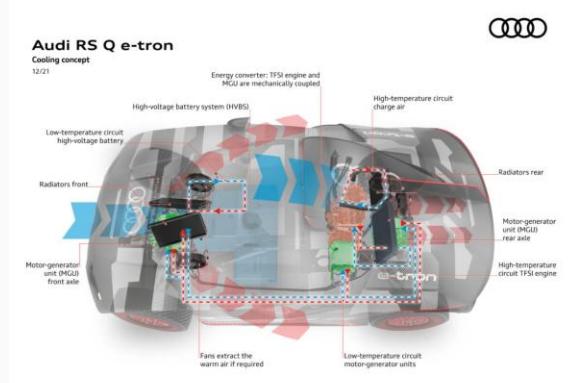


Image courtesy of: <https://www.pwmagazine.com/news/new-competition-car/audi-plans-on-keeping-its-cool-at-dakar.html>

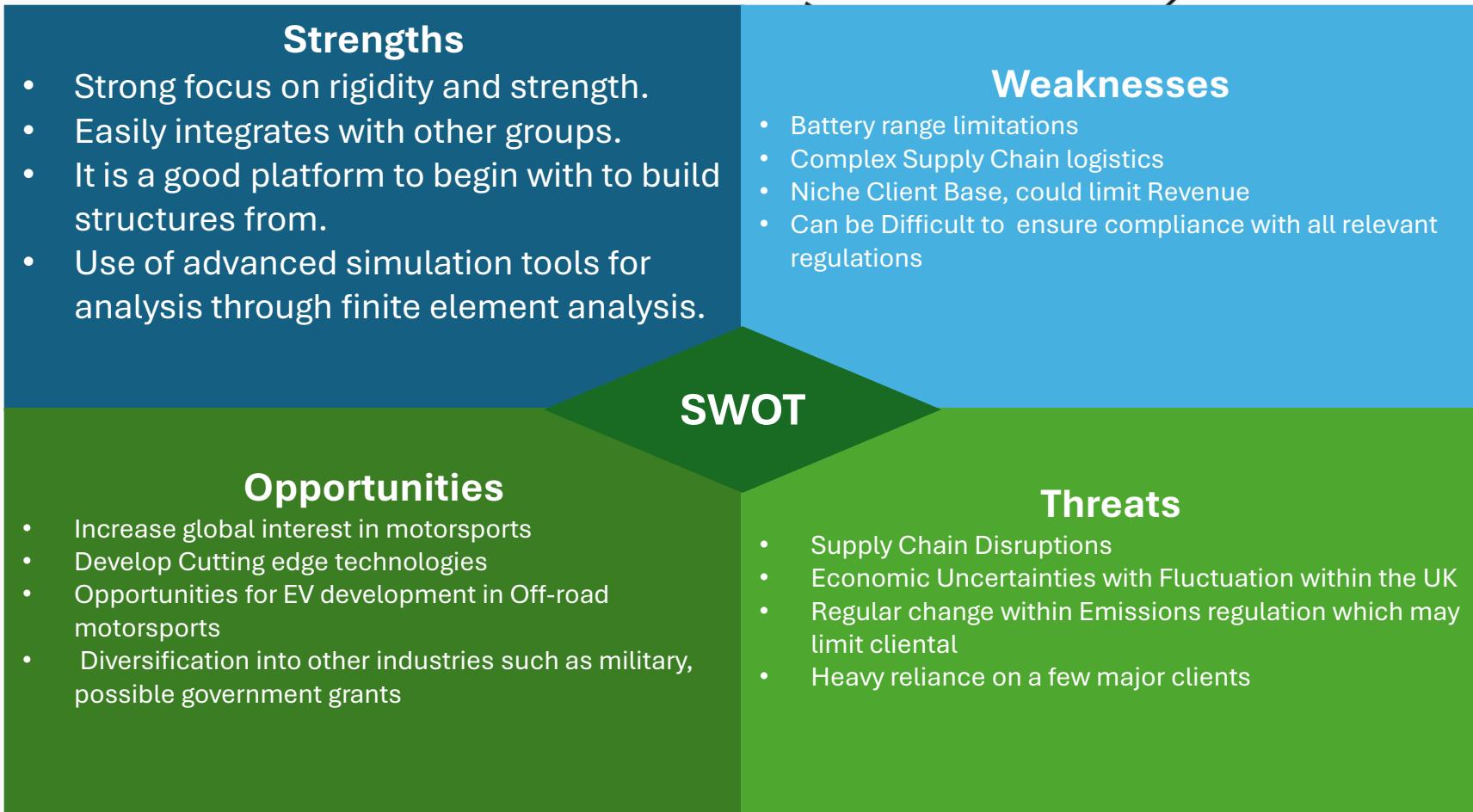


UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

SWOT Analysis



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

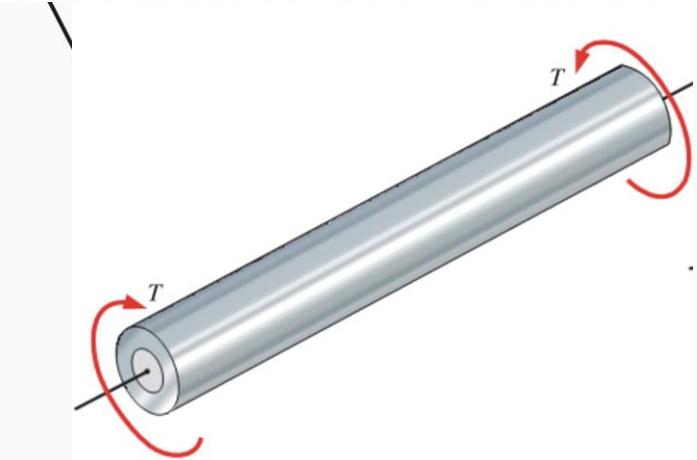
SWOT Analysis

	The Good	The not-so-good
What we've got	<p>Strong focus on rigidity and safety.</p> <p>Easily integrates with other groups.</p> <p>It is a good platform to begin with to build structures from</p> <p>Use of advanced simulation tools for analysis through finite element analysis.</p>	<p>Limited real-world testing opportunities.</p> <p>Must be rules complaint.</p> <p>Will added mass.</p> <p>Hard to understand cooling loads and weather conditions.</p>
What's out there	<p>Adoption of innovative materials.</p> <p>Use of 3D printing technology.</p> <p>Data for material properties.</p> <p>Standard design procedures.</p>	<p>Without physical testing hard to understand exactly how components will react under load.</p> <p>It is hard to simulate different methods of joining.</p>



Material Selection and Tubing

- Following FIA regulations
- **Chosen Material --> AISI/SAE 4130**
 - High Specific Strength (91.25 kN.m/kg)
 - Superior Fracture Toughness (140 MPa.m^{0.5})
 - Good weldability, strong joints for tubing
- Roll Cage and Crash Structure Tubing
 - Follows FIA regulations
 - 30 mm outside diameter, 3 mm thickness
 - Torsional stiffness $\frac{E}{2(1+\nu)} * \frac{\pi}{32} * (OD^4 - ID^4)$
= 3611.5 Nm/rad per unit length



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Roll Cage Concept Designs

1. Structural Integrity

→ Safety drivers

- Reinforced main bar sections

2. Optimize weight distribution

→ Enhance Performance

- Low centre of mass, improved stability

3. Crash and Impact Absorption

→ Ensures durability

- Driver and systems safe in multi-directional crashes



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

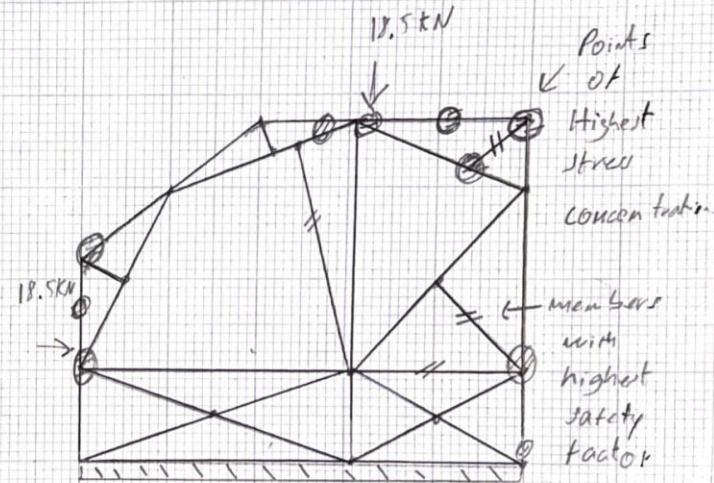
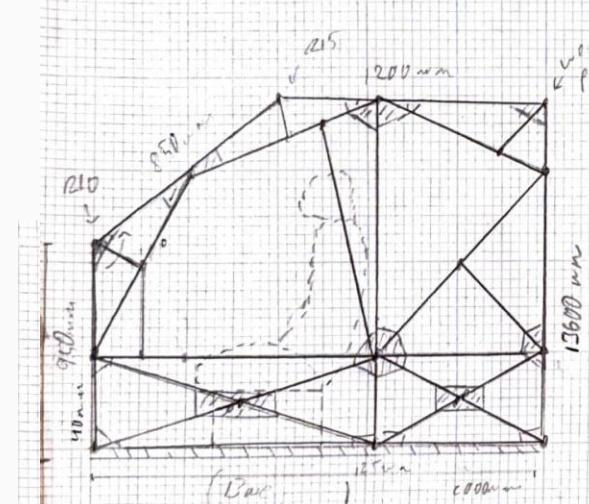
Rollcage Cabin Design

→ Side Structure key Considerations

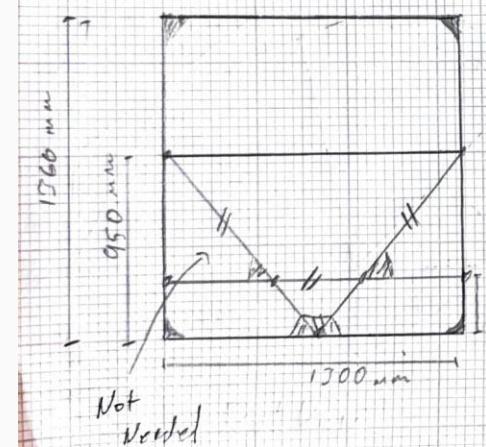
- Follow FIA regulations
- provide support to main members
- reduce extra weight

Front view

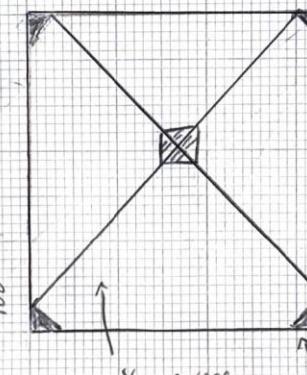
→ Weight optimization after initial FEA



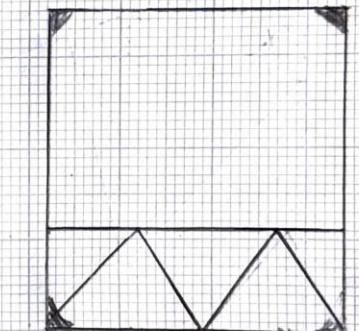
Front



Main



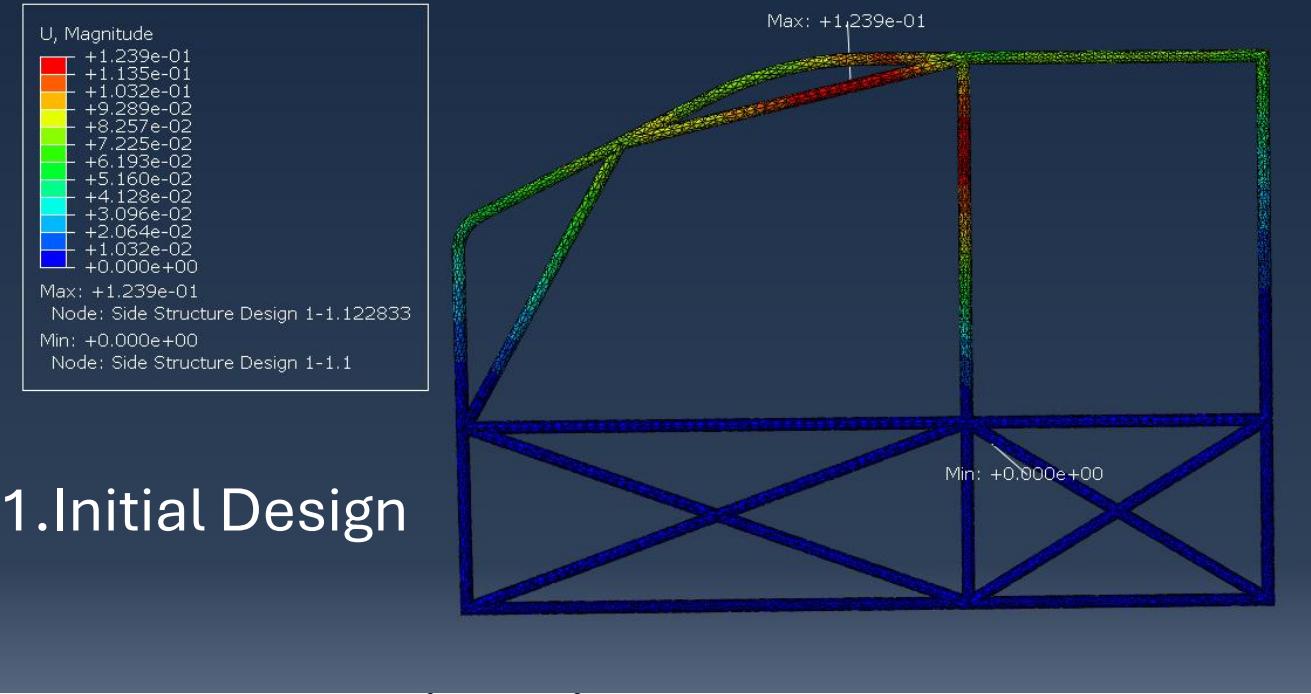
Back



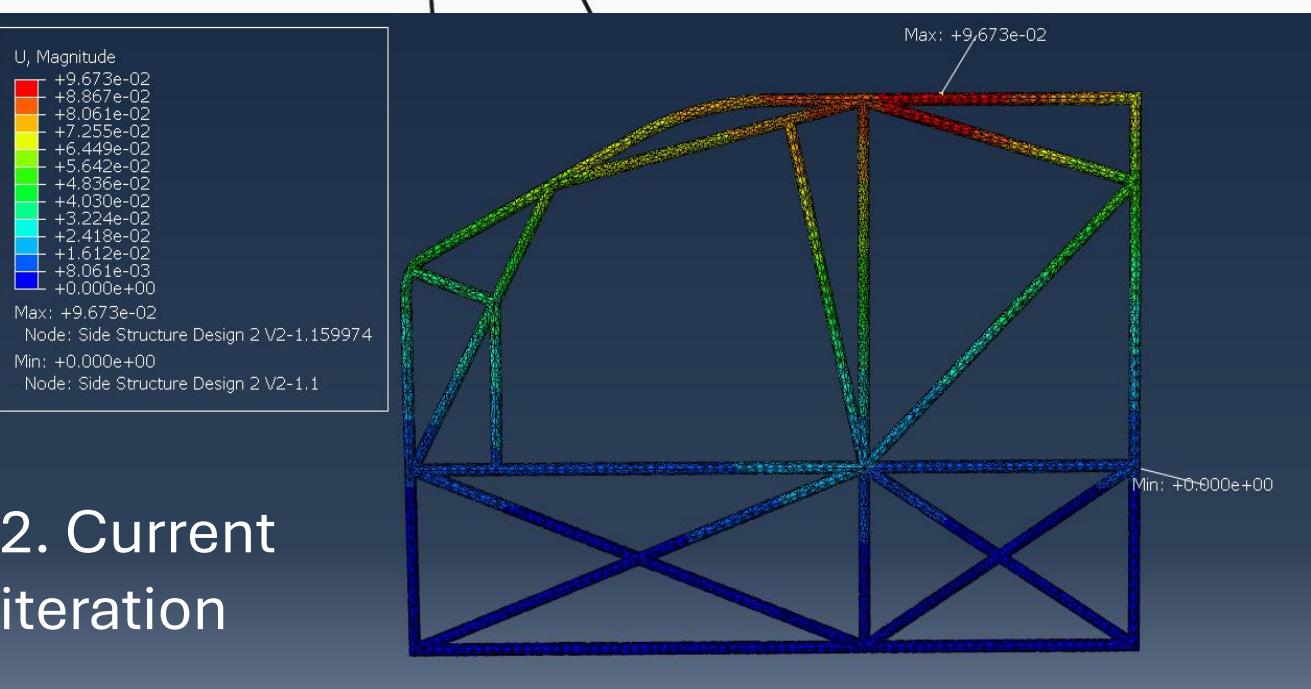
Extrusion provide welding straight

Design Iterations

- Initial side structure went through multiple design iterations after performing FEA on a point load of 70.5 kN on the top member.
- Final design redistributes loads uniformly along the main and auxiliary members.
- Final design features significant less strain in main bar sections.



1. Initial Design

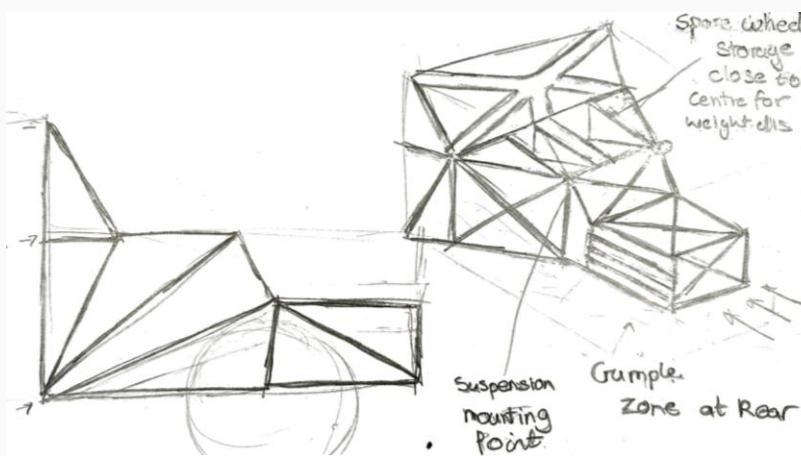
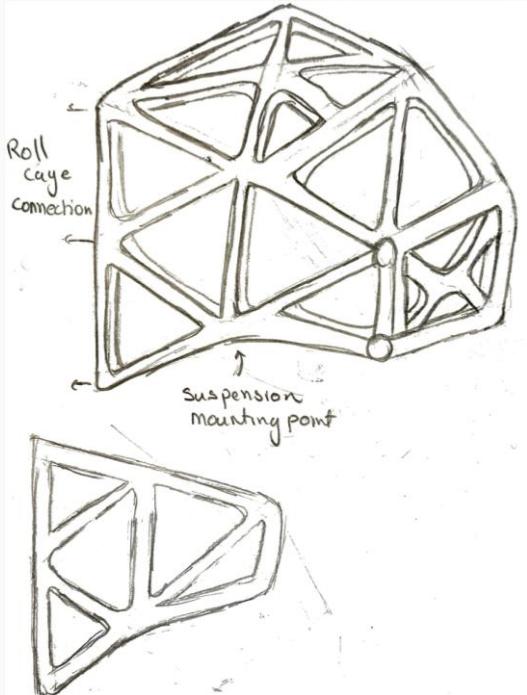


2. Current iteration

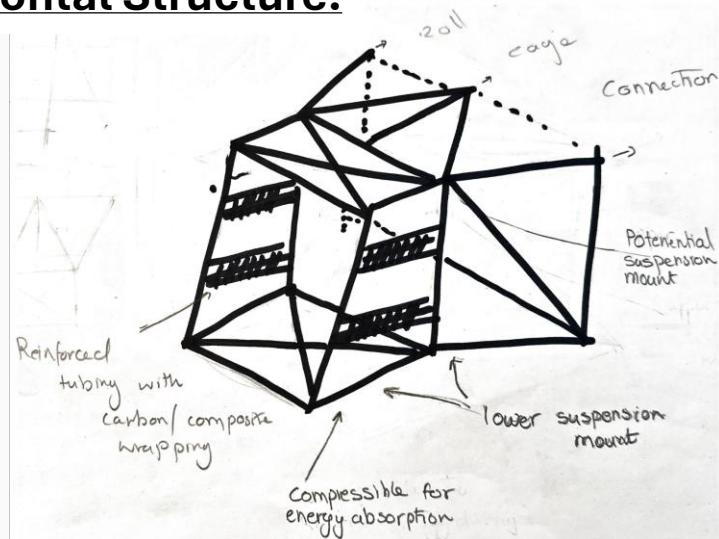


Concept Sketches For Crash Structure

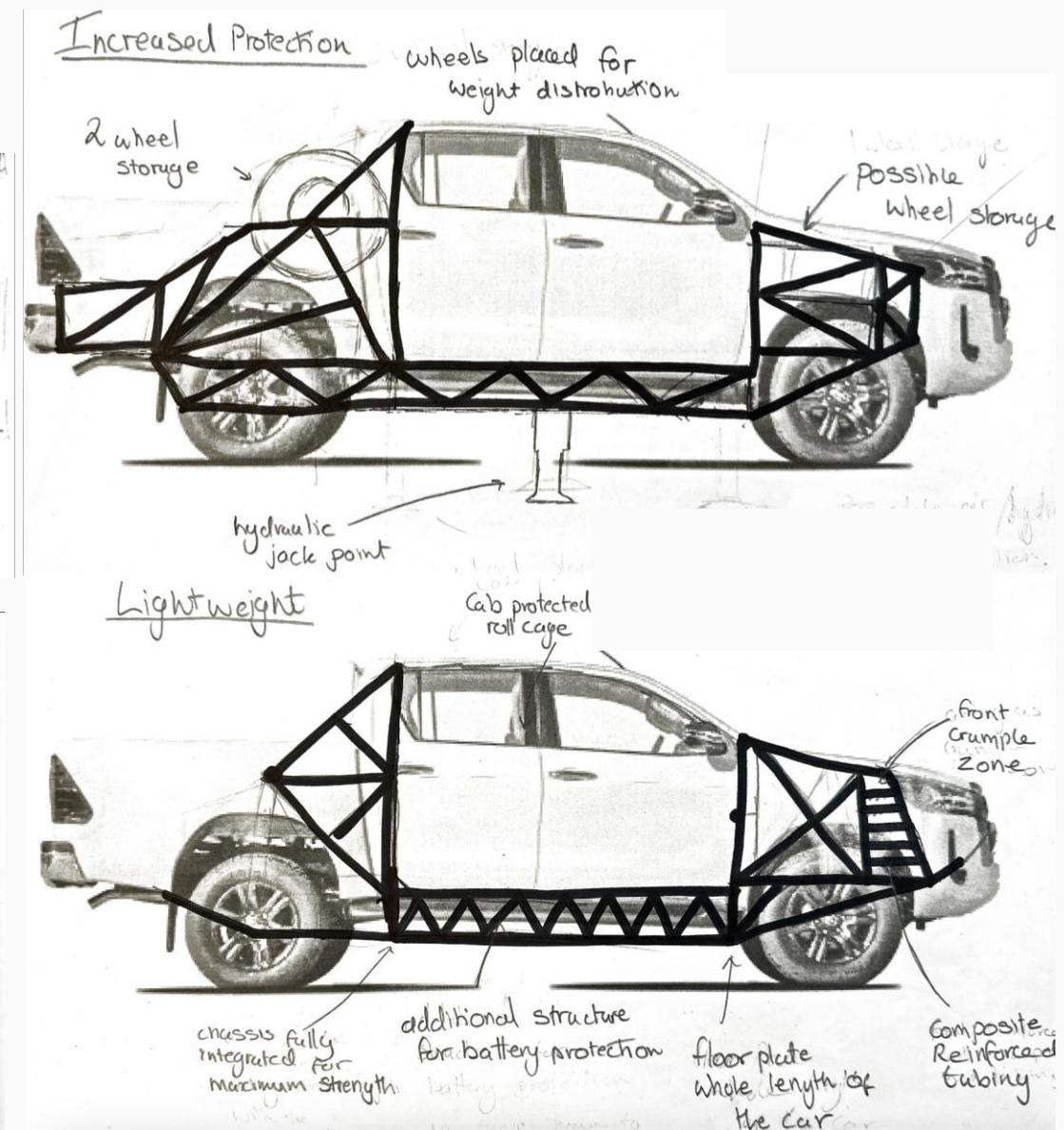
Rear Structure:



Frontal Structure:



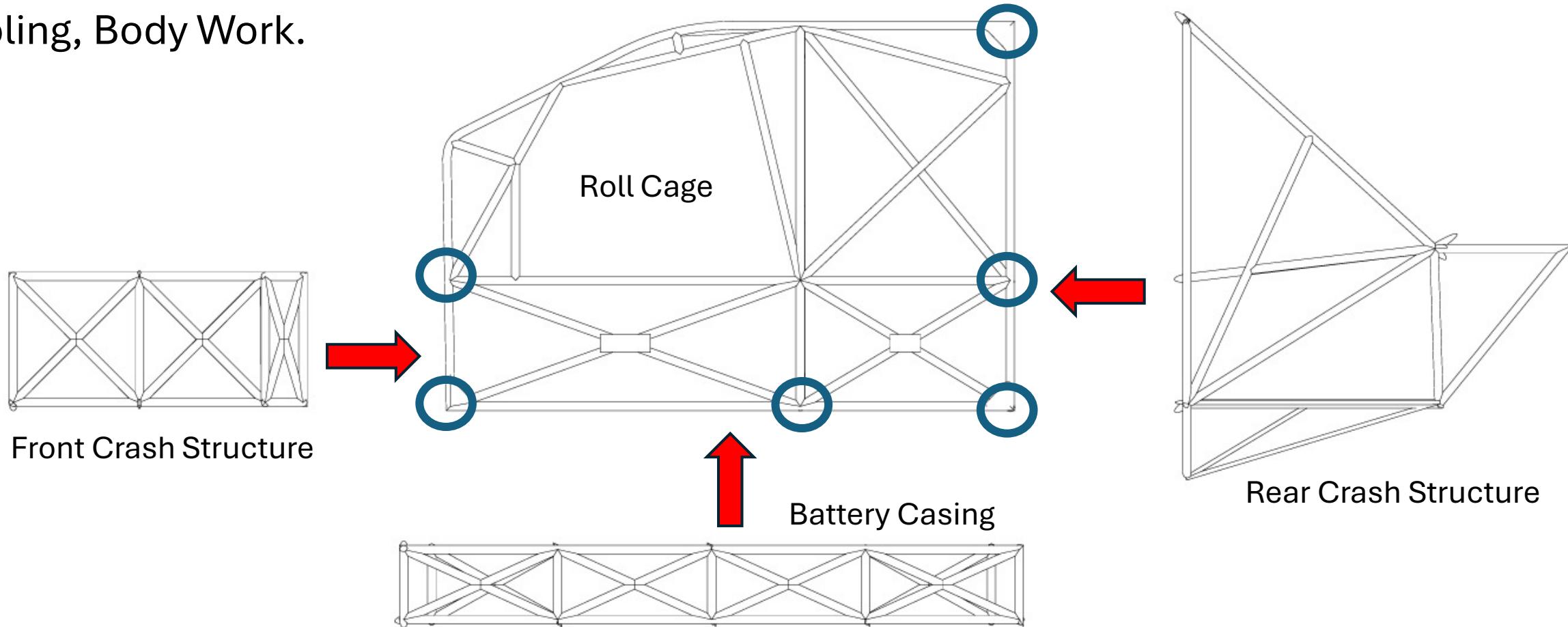
Whole Vehicle Concept:



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

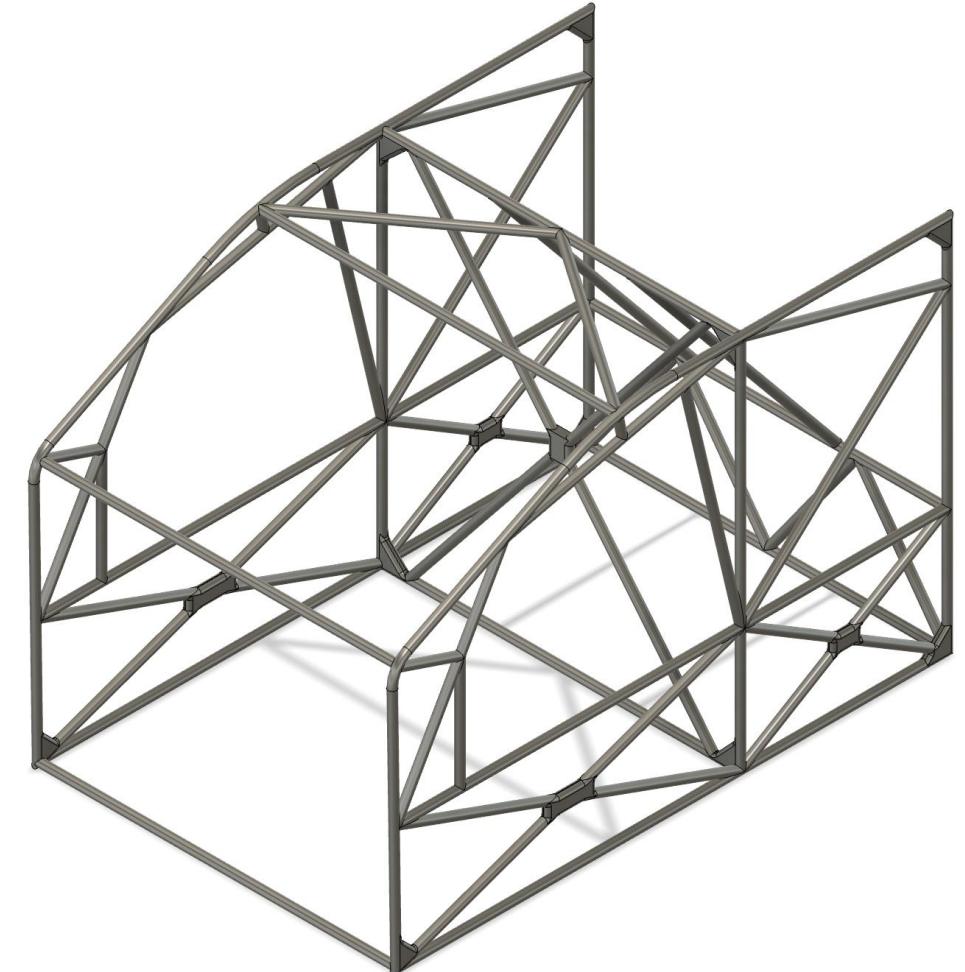
Roll Cage and Crash Structure Integration

- Welding points established between Crash Structure and Roll Cage.
- Mounting points for Suspension, Cooling, Body Work.



Future Plans Crash Structure and Roll Cage

- Further FEA simulations to validate design safety compliance.
- Integrate accumulator and drivetrain into structure.
- Further enhance performance by weight reduction and structure optimisation.
- Establish mounting points for suspension, cooling systems, fire extinguisher mounting and other auxiliary systems.
- Utilization of generative design in key aspects of crash structure.

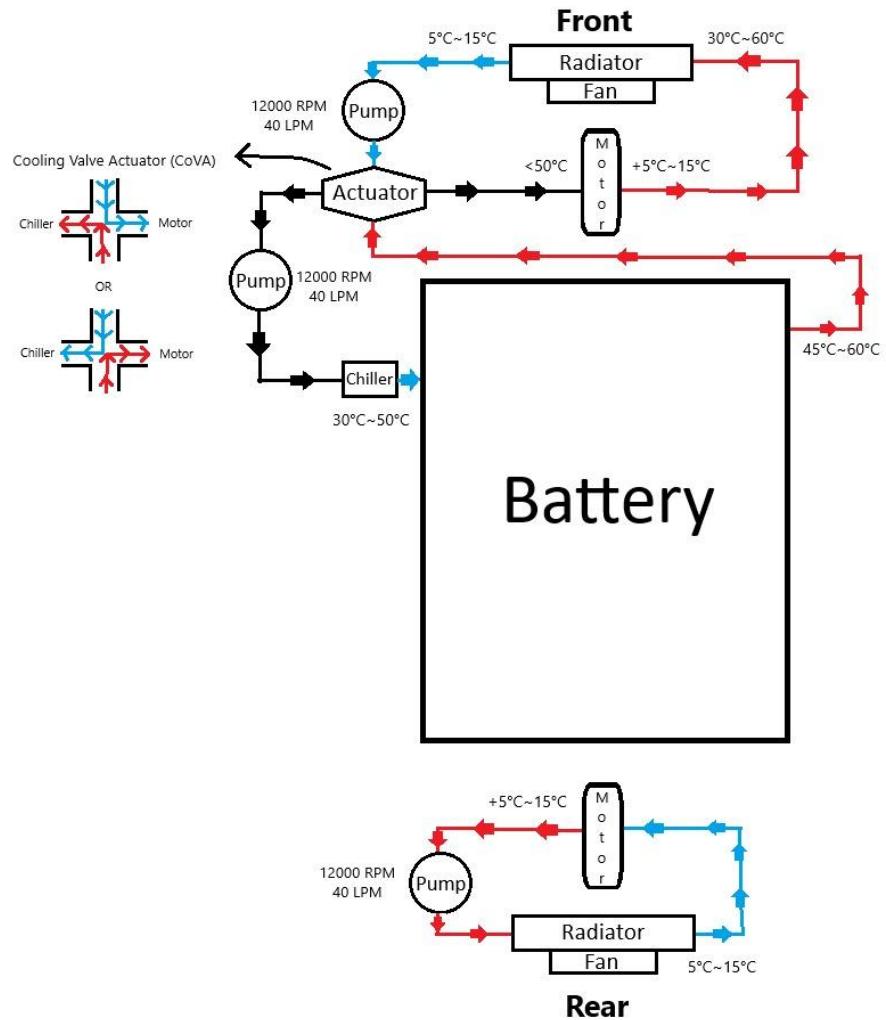


UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

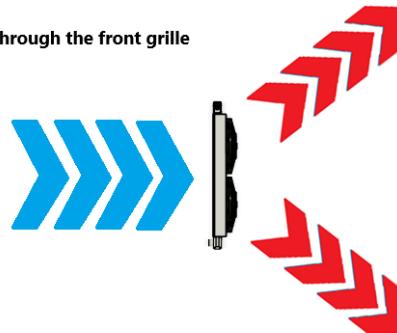
We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Cooling Diagram

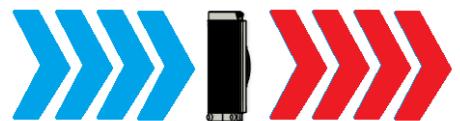


Top View

Air intake through the front grille



Air intake through the roof vent



Side View



Component	Ideal Operating Temperature	Allowable Temperature Range	Coolant Inlet Temperature
EMRAX 348 Motor	Below 120°C (internal components)	-40°C to $+60^{\circ}\text{C}$ (ambient)	$\leq 50^{\circ}\text{C}$ (recommended)
Toyota Solid-State Battery	20°C to 60°C	-30°C to $+170^{\circ}\text{C}$ (varies by design)	30°C to 50°C (if liquid cooling is added)



Cooling Calculations

Temperature Decrease in the Radiators

$$Q = \dot{m}C_p\Delta T$$

$$\dot{m} = 0.718 \text{ kg/s}$$

$$C_p = 3.359 \text{ kJ/kg.K}$$

$$\Delta T = T_{in} - T_{out}$$

$$\text{For the Front Radiator: } \Delta T = \frac{Q}{\dot{m}C_p} = \frac{34000}{0.718 \times 3359} = 14.098^\circ C$$

$$\text{For the Rear Radiator: } \Delta T = \frac{Q}{\dot{m}C_p} = \frac{14000}{0.718 \times 3359} = 5.805^\circ C$$

Battery Pack Heat Loss:

$$Q_{battery} = (1 - \eta) * P_{battery}$$

$$(1 - 0.95) * 400 \text{ kW} = 20 \text{ kW}$$

Motor Heat Loss:

$$Q_{motor} = (1 - \eta) * P_{motor}$$

$$(1 - 0.93) * 400 \text{ kW} = 28 \text{ kW}$$

Battery: 20kW

Front Motor: 14kW

Rear Motor: 14kW

Front Radiator Cools: $20 + 14 = 34 \text{ kW}$

Rear Radiator Cools: 14 kW

Radiator Sizing

$$Q = U \times A \times \Delta T_{\log mean}$$

$$A = \frac{Q}{U \times \Delta T_{\log mean}}$$

$$\text{For Front Radiator: } A = \frac{34000}{400 \times 30} = 2.83 \text{ m}^2$$

$$\text{For Rear Radiator: } A = \frac{14000}{400 \times 35} = 1 \text{ m}^2$$

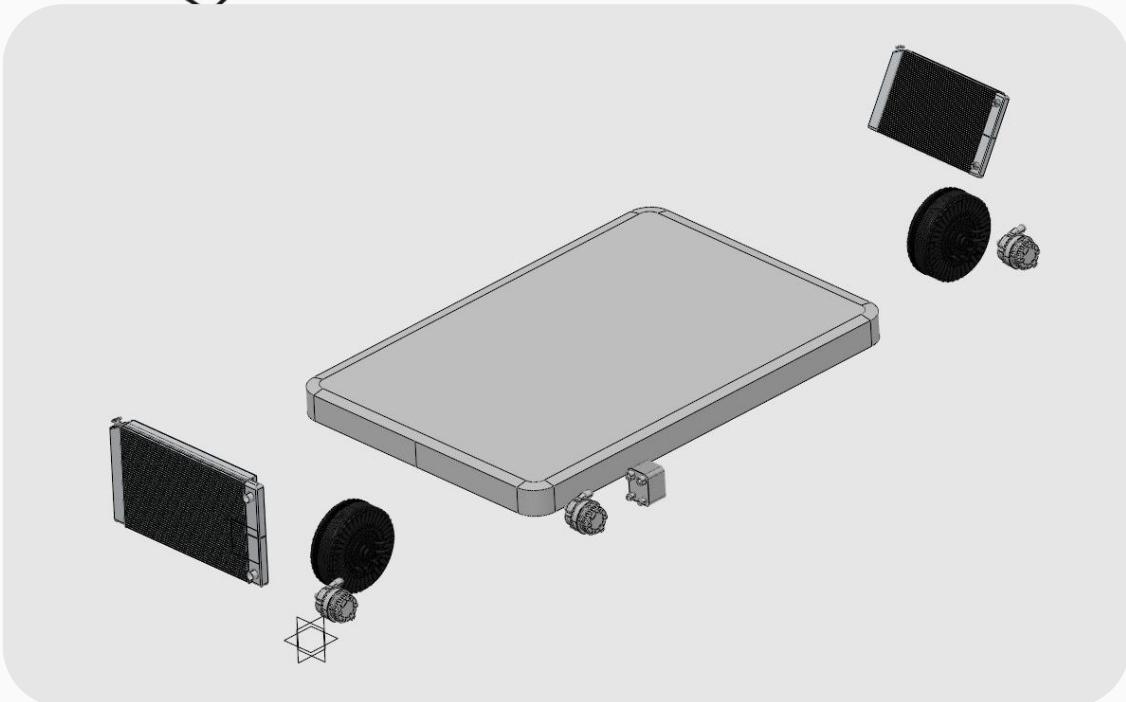
Front Radiator: $60 \times 50 \times 5 \text{ cm}$ (Battery + Front Motor, 34kW)

Rear Radiator: $40 \times 35 \times 5 \text{ cm}$ (Rear Motor, 14kW)



Future Plan

- Improvement on the CAD
- Further calculations on dynamic cooling behaviour, effects of vehicle speed on cooling
- Optimise fan speed and energy usage to balance cooling and efficiency.

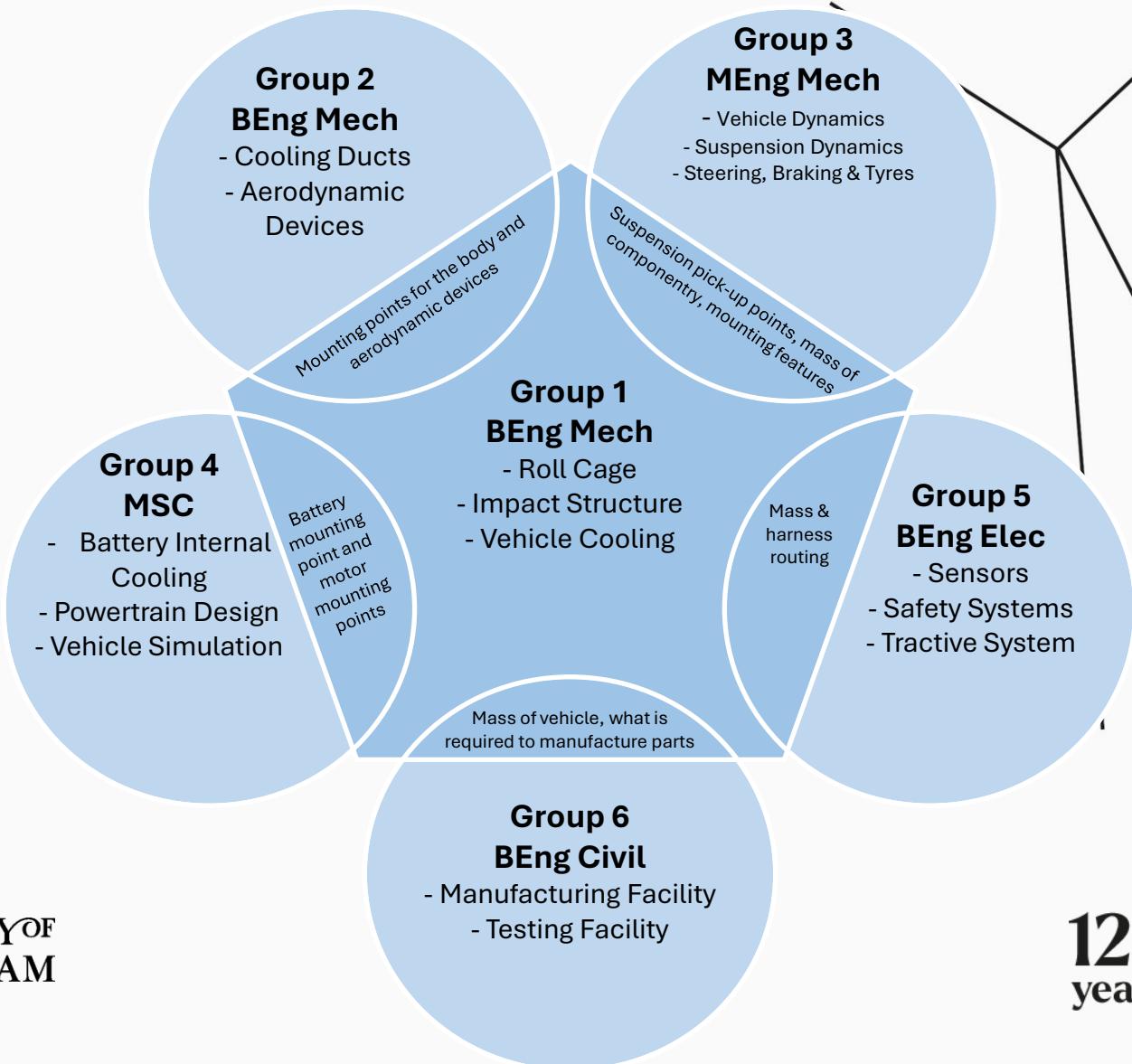


UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Team Integration



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Team Integration



UNIVERSIT
BIRMINGHAM

Group 4

Group 1
BEng Mech
Ball Cage

Group 2
BEng Mech
- Cooling Ducts
- Aerodynamic Devices

Mounting points for the body and aerodynamic devices

Group 3
MEng Mech

- Vehicle Dynamics
- Suspension Dynamics
- Steering, Braking & Tyres

Suspension pick-up points, mass of componentry, mounting features

Team Integration

Group 6 BEng Civil

- Manufacturing Facility
- Testing Facility

Group 5 BEng Elec

- Sensors
- Safety Systems
- Tractive System

Mass &
harness
routing

Group 1 BEng Mech

- Roll Cage
- Impact Structure
- Vehicle Cooling

Mass of vehicle, what is required to manufacture parts

Group 4 MSC

- Battery Internal Cooling
- Powertrain Design
- Vehicle Simulation

Battery mounting point and motor mounting points

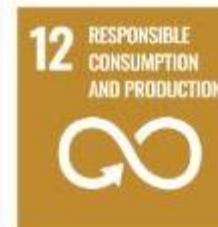


UNI
BIRMIN

Sustainability



- Efficiency through material usage.
- Sustainable clean methods of cleaning components and finishing them.
- Using sustainable materials and recycled componentry.

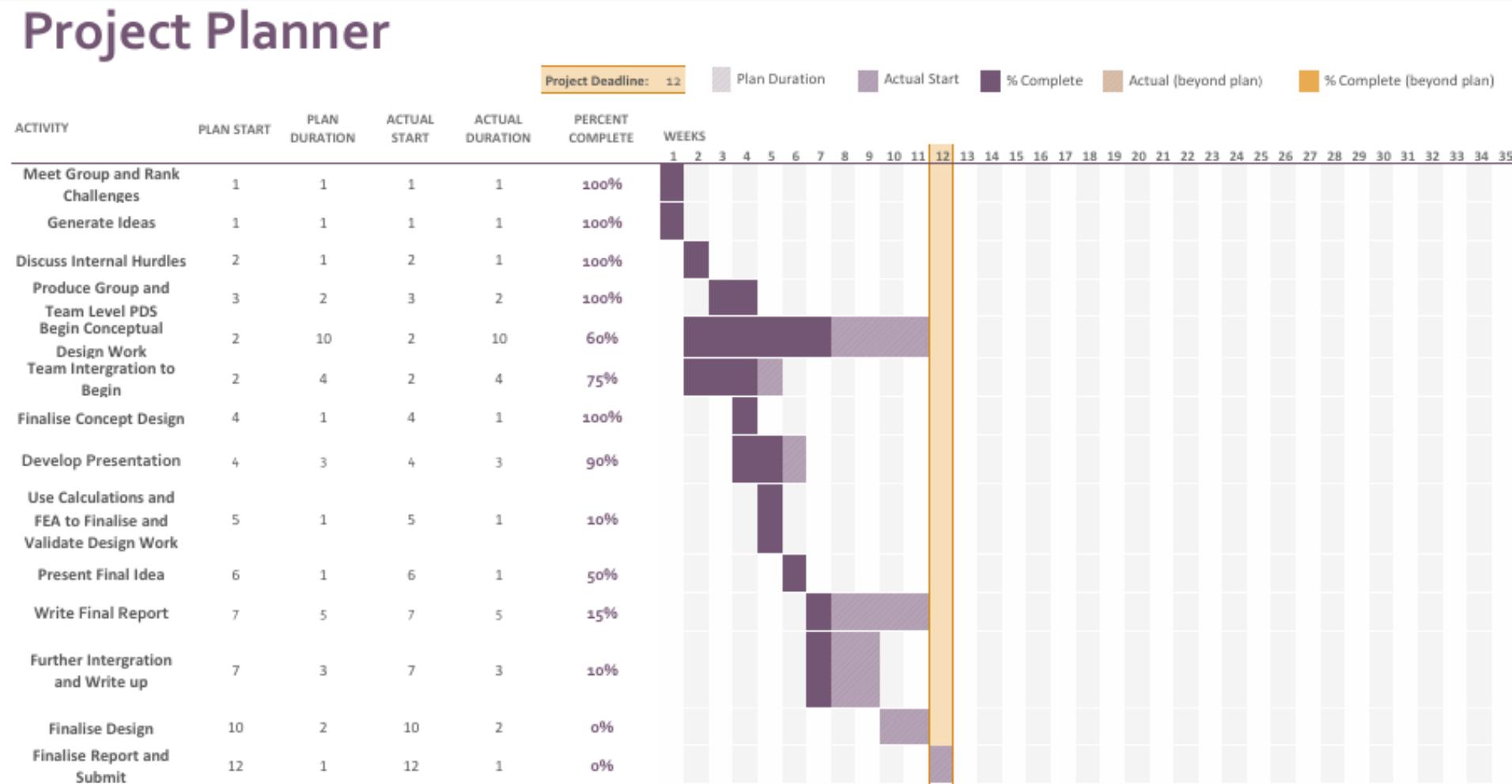


UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years
We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Future Plans- Gantt Chart

Project Planner

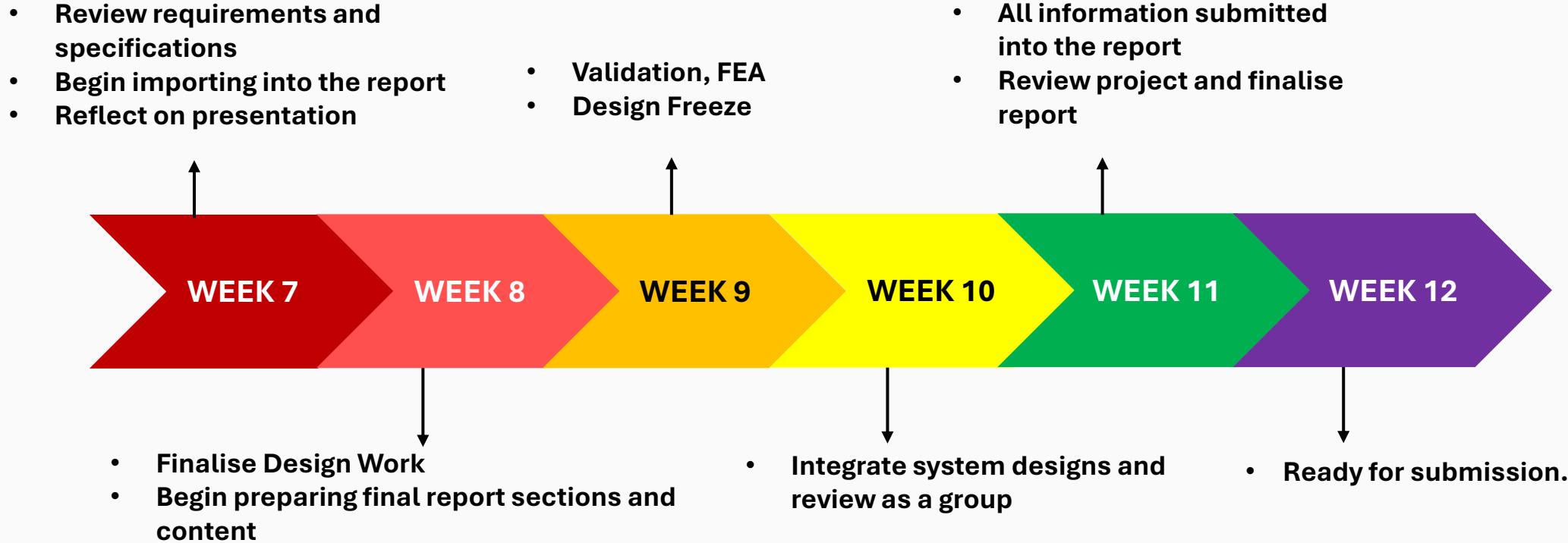


UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Future Plans



Q&A



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



125
years
We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Optimizing Aerodynamics, Cooling, and Compatibility for the Dakar 2028 EV Hilux

BEng Mech 2



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

The Group

Haokun Wang
Battery
Development

Shaojie Jia
Powertrain
Development

Yuntao Xu
Battery
Development

Ao Li
Battery
Development

Tiannuo Guo
Research

Junzhi Huang
Battery
Development

Mingyang Liu
Battery cooling
system

Xinyuan Li
Research



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years
We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

The Group

Haokun Wang
Battery
Development

Shaojie Jia
Powertrain
Development

Yuntao Xu
Battery
Development

Ao Li
Battery
Development

Tiannuo Guo
Research

Junzhi Huang
Battery
Development

Mingyang Liu
Battery cooling
system

Xinyuan Li
Research



125
years
We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Group Activities/Goals

1. Cooling Ducts: for optimal temperature management

- Efficient air intake design for brake and radiator cooling
- Optimized duct placement for airflow improvement

2. Aerodynamics: for efficiency and stability

- CFD simulations to reduce drag and improve handling

3. Rally Modification: to meet Dakar's extreme conditions

- Enhancing durability and resilience under extreme conditions



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years
We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Basic Calculations

1. Drag Force Calculation

$$F_D = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \rho \cdot v^2 \cdot C_D \cdot A = 320 \text{ N}$$

2. Lift Force Calculation

$$F_L = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \rho \cdot v^2 \cdot C_L \cdot A = 45 \text{ N}$$

3. Lift to Drag Ratio

$$Ratio = \frac{F_L}{F_D} = 0.14$$

4. Cooling for Brakes

$$Q = m \cdot c \cdot \Delta T = 1225 \text{ kJ}$$

Parameters

F_D : Drag Force (3.20 N)

ρ : Density of Air (1.293 kg/m^3)

v : average Car velocity (30m/s)

C_D : Drag Coefficient (0.367)

A : Frontal Area (1.5 m^2)

F_L : Lift Force (-0.45 N)

C_L : Lift Coefficient (-0.051)

Q : Heat Required for cooling (kJ)

m : mass of the brakes (10 kg)

c : Heat Capacity for Steel (490 J/kg °C)

ΔT : Change in Temperature (250 °C)



Purpose and Methodology of CFD Analysis

- **Objective:** Assess aerodynamic performance of the base car at an **air speed of 30 m/s** (Dakar Rally Average Stage Speed)
- **Significance:**
 - Efficiency
 - Stability
 - Performance
- **Simulation Approach:**
 - Scaled model for simulation
 - **Reduced processing time & Ensure Accuracy.**
- **Focus Areas:**
 - Airflow distribution
 - Identify **high resistance zones.**



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

CFD Results and Future Development

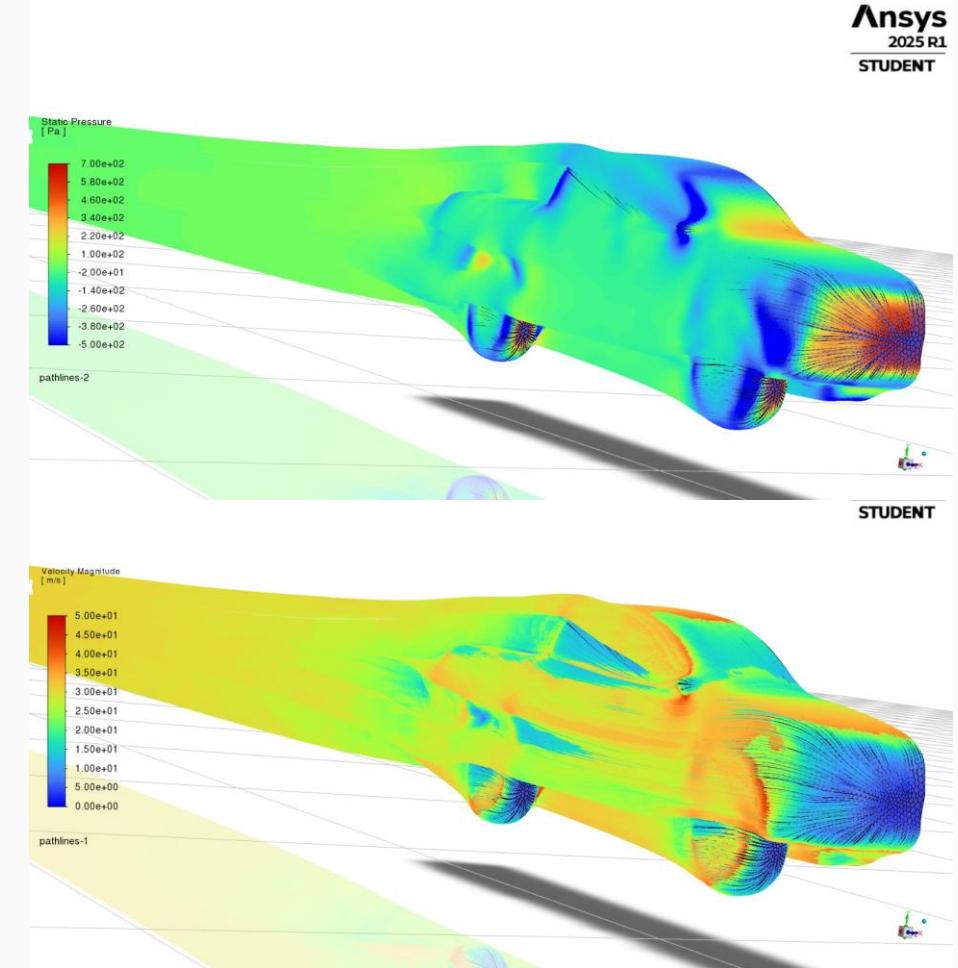
- **Key Findings:**

- **Aerodynamic Performance Metrics:** Analysis of coefficient of lift and drag. ($Cl=-0.05$, $Cd=0.367$)
- **Pressure Distribution:** Identification of **high-pressure zones** at the front of the car.
- **Flow Behavior:** Observation of **stall streams** at the rear, affecting aerodynamic efficiency.

- **Proposed Optimizations:**

- **Front-end Refinement:** Reduce high-pressure zones through improved geometry.
- **Rear-end Design Enhancement:** Modify shape to minimize stall streams and improve airflow.
- **Performance Balancing:** Maintain a **negative lift coefficient** for improved downforce while simultaneously reducing drag.

Ansys
2025 R1
STUDENT



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Cooling Intake

Aims

O1: Provide cooling for brakes and radiators

O2: Optimise Air Flow

Tools

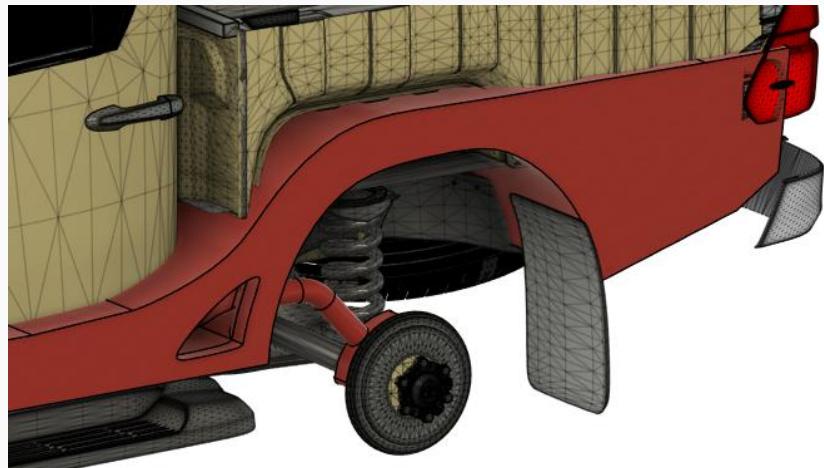
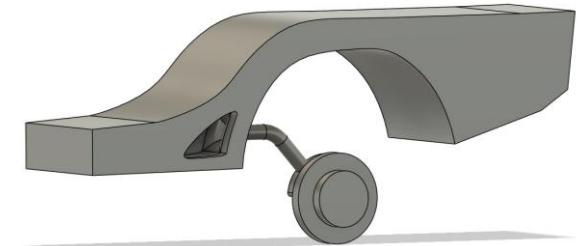
- Fusion 360
- Ansys Fluent

Improvements

- Side vents
- Roof air vent

Things to consider

- CFD for the air flow



Aerodynamics

Aims

O1: Reduce Induced Drag

- Increases stability and efficiency

O2: Increase Downforce

- Increases grip on loose surfaces

Tools

- | Tools | Improvements |
|----------------|---|
| • Fusion 360 | • Front winglets (O2) |
| • Ansys Fluent | • Rear Spoiler (O2)
• Thinned Out front Bumper (O1)
• Streamlined Rear End (O1) |



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Aerodynamics

Improvements

- Front winglets (O2)
- Thinned Out Front Bumper (O1)



Improvements

- Rear Spoiler (O2)
- Streamlined Rear End (O1)



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Enhancing Rally Compatibility

Objective:

Improve durability and off-road resilience by protecting critical components from rough terrain, debris, and impacts.

Key Modifications:

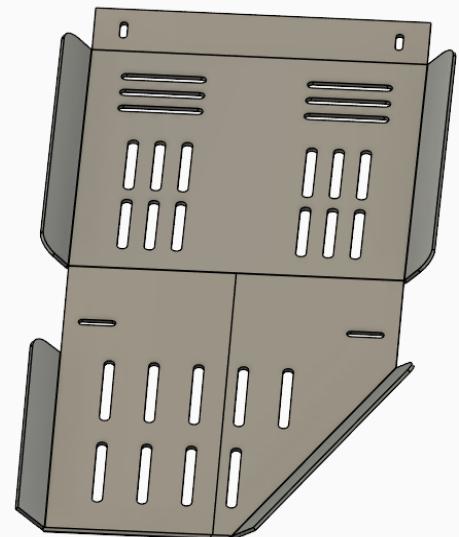
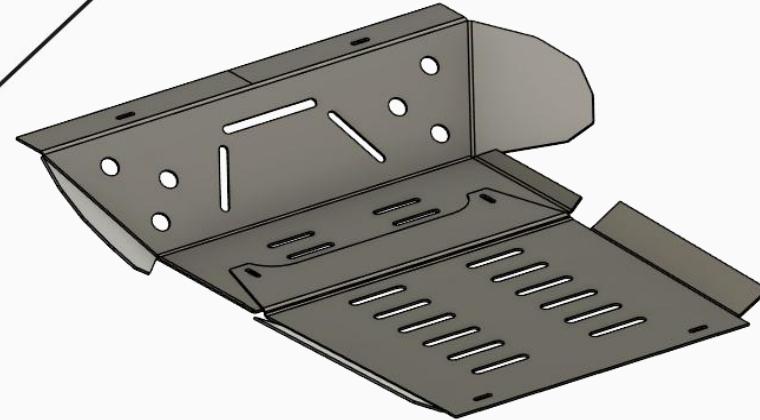
- **Engine Bash Plate:** Shields the engine from rocks, debris, and ground impact.
- **Transmission Bash Plate:** Protects the gearbox from damage due to rough terrain, preventing mechanical failures.

Design Features:

Constructed using **lightweight** Aluminum 7075-t6 alloy sheets, powder coated for maximum durability and corrosion resistance

Optimized airflow and heat dissipation to maintain cooling efficiency.

Streamlined geometry to reduce aerodynamic drag while maintaining clearance for off-road conditions.

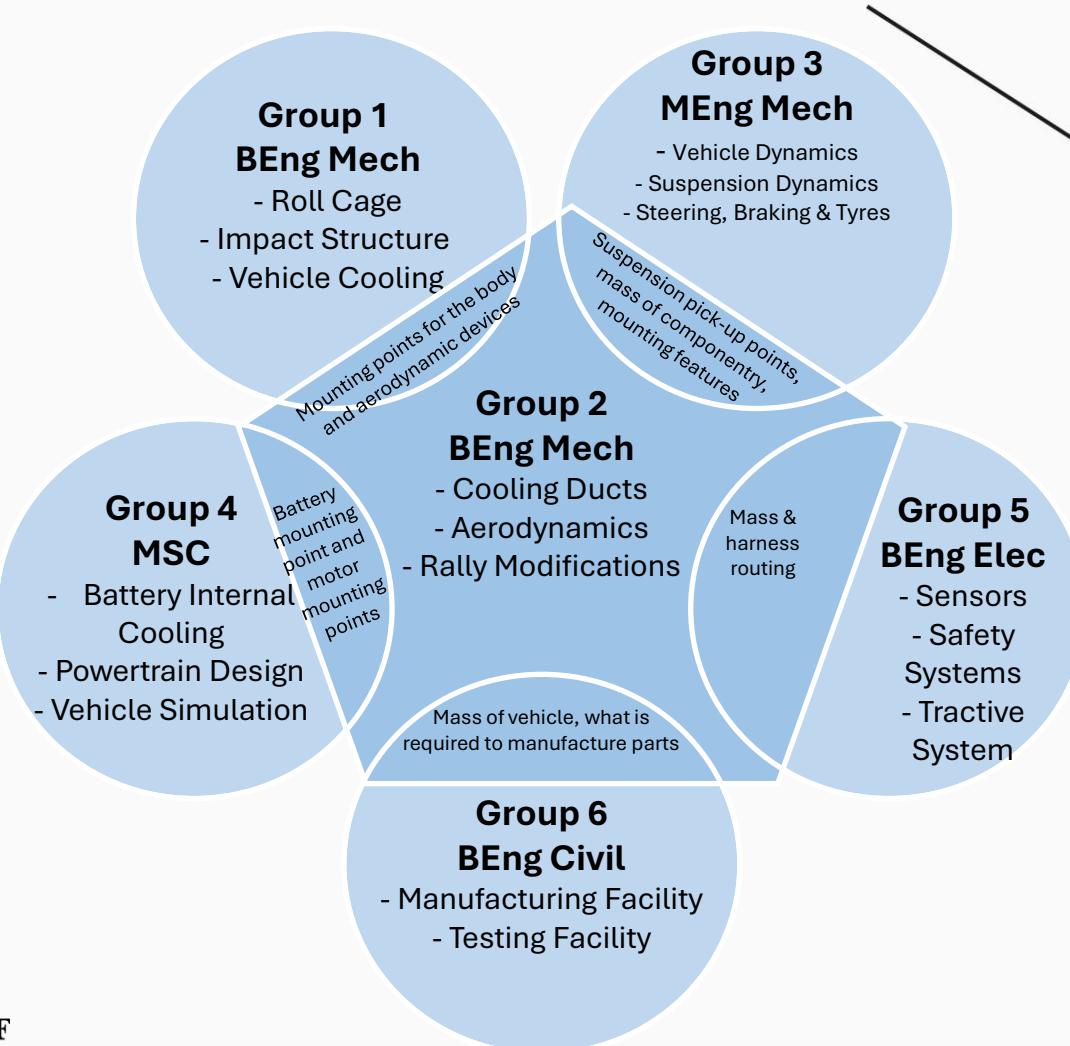


UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Team Integration



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years
We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Sustainability

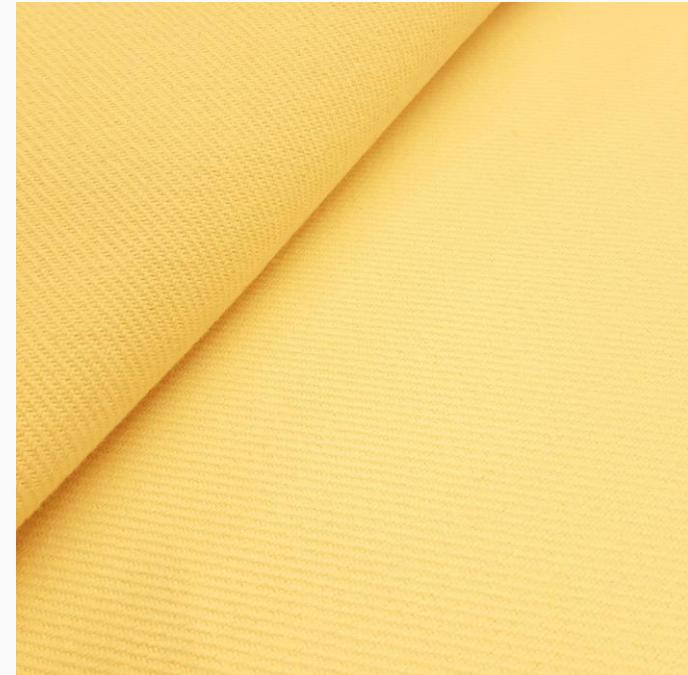
For Sustainable Development Goals:

- Innovation on Aerodynamic design and Lightweight part design – SDG 9
- Improve fuel efficiency – SDG 11
- Reduce carbon emission – SDG 13



How to achieve:

- Low drag aerodynamic design
- Material consideration – cost and performance
- Lifecycle consideration of design - durability

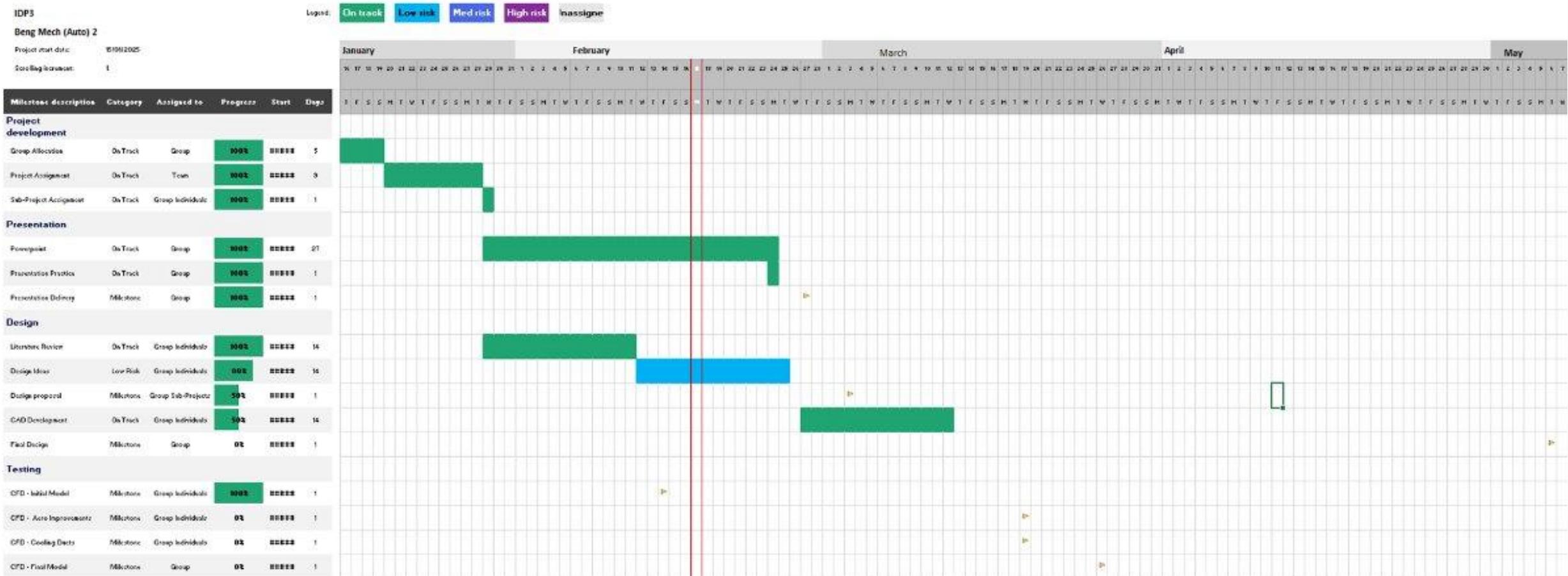


UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Gantt Chart



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

IDP5

Last updated: On track Low risk Med risk High risk Assigned

Beng Mech (Auto) 2

Project start date: 01/01/2025

Scaling factor: 1

Milestone description	Category	Assigned to	Progress	Start	End
-----------------------	----------	-------------	----------	-------	-----

Project development

Group Allocation	On Track	Group	<div style="width: 100%;">100%</div>	2024-01-01	2024-01-05
Project Assignment	On Track	Team	<div style="width: 100%;">100%</div>	2024-01-05	2024-01-08
Sub-Project Assignment	On Track	Group Individual	<div style="width: 100%;">100%</div>	2024-01-08	2024-01-09

Presentation

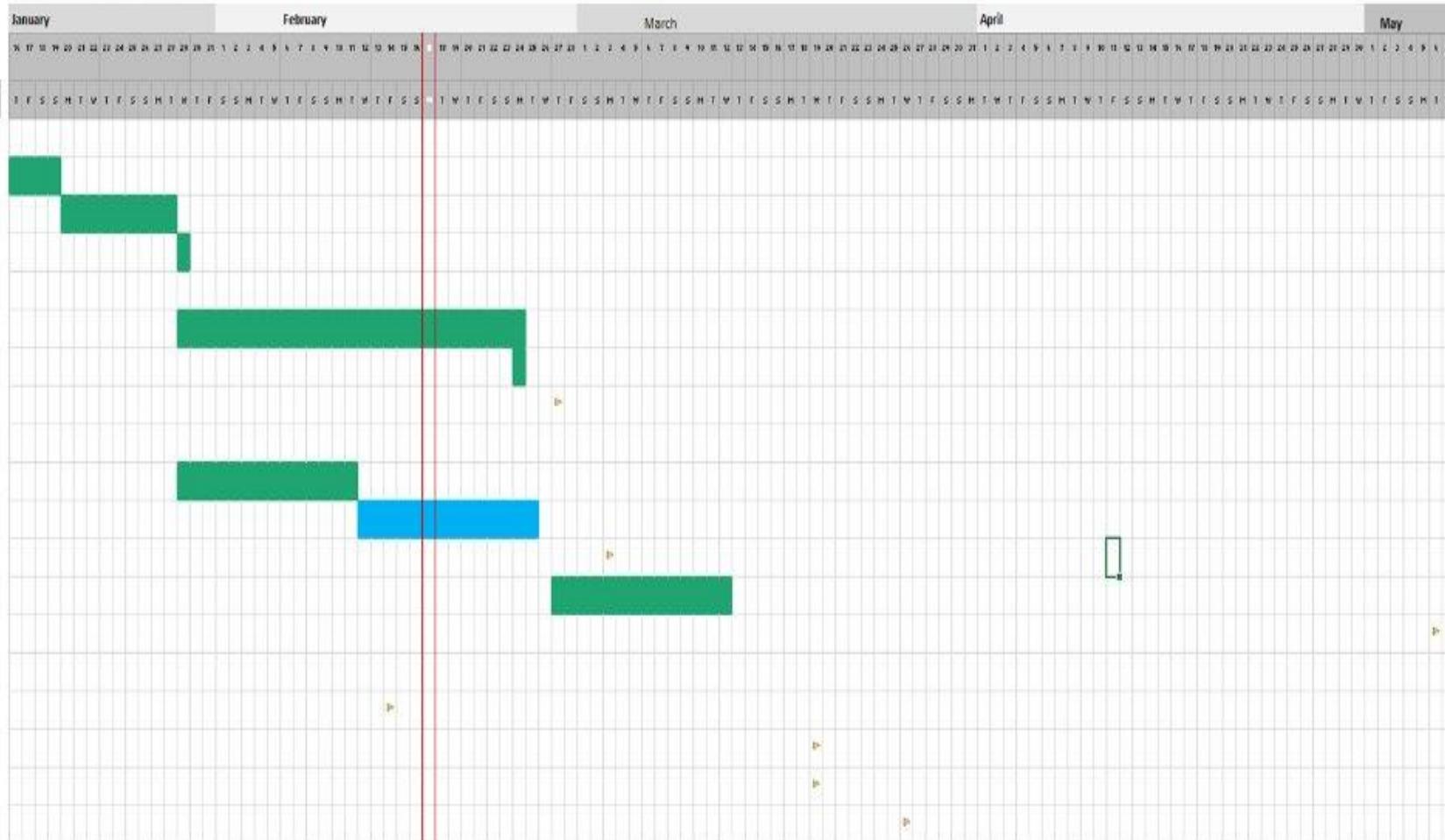
Powerpoint	On Track	Group	<div style="width: 100%;">100%</div>	2024-01-15	2024-01-15
Prototypes Protos	On Track	Group	<div style="width: 100%;">100%</div>	2024-01-15	2024-01-15
Prototypes Delivery	At Risk	Group	<div style="width: 100%; background-color: #d93a21;">100%</div>	2024-01-15	2024-01-15

Design

Iterations Review	On Track	Group Individual	<div style="width: 100%;">100%</div>	2024-01-15	2024-01-15
Design Mock	Low Risk	Group Individuals	<div style="width: 100%; background-color: #007131;">100%</div>	2024-01-15	2024-01-15
Design proposal	At Risk	Group Sub-Project	<div style="width: 50%; background-color: #d93a21;">50%</div>	2024-01-15	2024-01-15
CAD Development	On Track	Group Individuals	<div style="width: 100%;">100%</div>	2024-01-15	2024-01-15
Tool Design	At Risk	Group	<div style="width: 100%; background-color: #d93a21;">100%</div>	2024-01-15	2024-01-15

Testing

CFD - Initial Model	At Risk	Group Individuals	<div style="width: 100%; background-color: #d93a21;">100%</div>	2024-01-15	2024-01-15
CFD - Aero Improvements	At Risk	Group Individuals	<div style="width: 100%; background-color: #d93a21;">100%</div>	2024-01-15	2024-01-15
CFD - Cooling Design	At Risk	Group Individuals	<div style="width: 100%; background-color: #d93a21;">100%</div>	2024-01-15	2024-01-15
CFD - Final Model	At Risk	Group	<div style="width: 100%; background-color: #d93a21;">100%</div>	2024-01-15	2024-01-15



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Swot Analysis

Strength

- Optimized aerodynamics reduce drag and improve efficiency
- Durable modifications enhance resilience for extreme rally conditions

Weaknesses

- Added aerodynamic components may increase vehicle weight
- Cooling system complexity requires precise airflow management

Opportunities

- Advancement in cooling technologies can enhance efficiency

Threats

- Harsh rally conditions may push components beyond tested limits

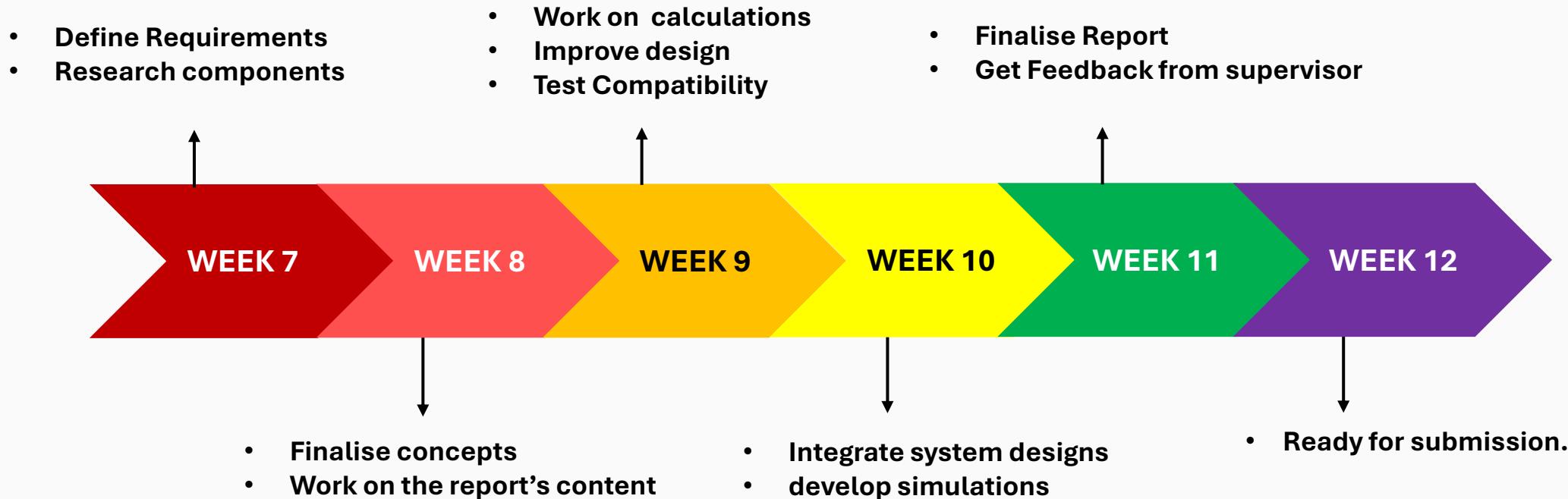


UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Future Plans



Q&A



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



125
years
We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Vehicle Dynamics, Suspension, Steering, Braking, and Tyres

Meng Mech 1



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

The Group



Diljit Singh
Vehicle Dynamics
Coordinator



Saeed Ahmed
Suspension



Keranveer Mann
Steering &
Braking



Aqib Mahmood
Steering & Braking



Grant Rogan
Suspension



Ayodeji Joseph
Vehicle Dynamics



Sayhan Ali
Vehicle Dynamics



Vinay Mahal
Vehicle Dynamics

Key:
Name-
Group Role-
Belbin Result-

Group Activities/Goals

Tasked with designing:

- Suspension
- Steering, Braking, & Tyres
- Vehicle Dynamics

Looking at how the vehicle rides and handles.

Goals:

- Research on types of components we need.
- Model the components to fit the chosen vehicle.
- Test and simulate rally conditions.
- Make a prototype.



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

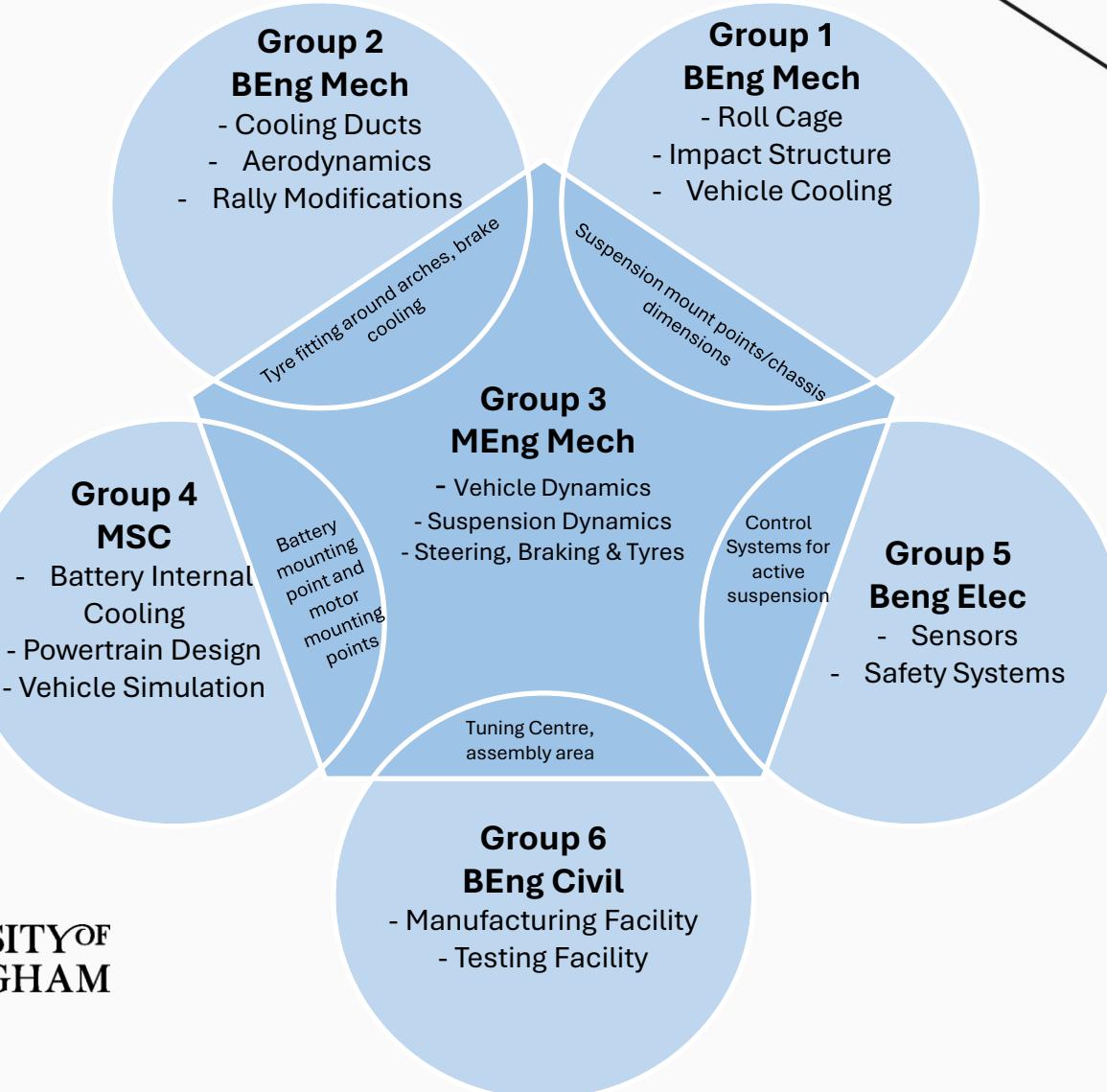
We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Swot Analysis

	The Good	The not-so-good
What we've got	Strong focus on performance optimisation for off-road conditions. Electric powertrain allows for a low centre of gravity. Use of advanced simulation tools for analysis.	Limited real world testing opportunities. High loads on suspension due to significant weight on suspension. Integration with other groups can be complex.
What's out there	Adoption of innovative materials. Use of regenerative braking for efficiency. Testing and feedback loops can improve design before the final one.	Reliability concerns for off-road conditions. Stability and rollover risk due to rugged terrain. Unpredictable conditions may expose unforeseen weaknesses.



Team Integration



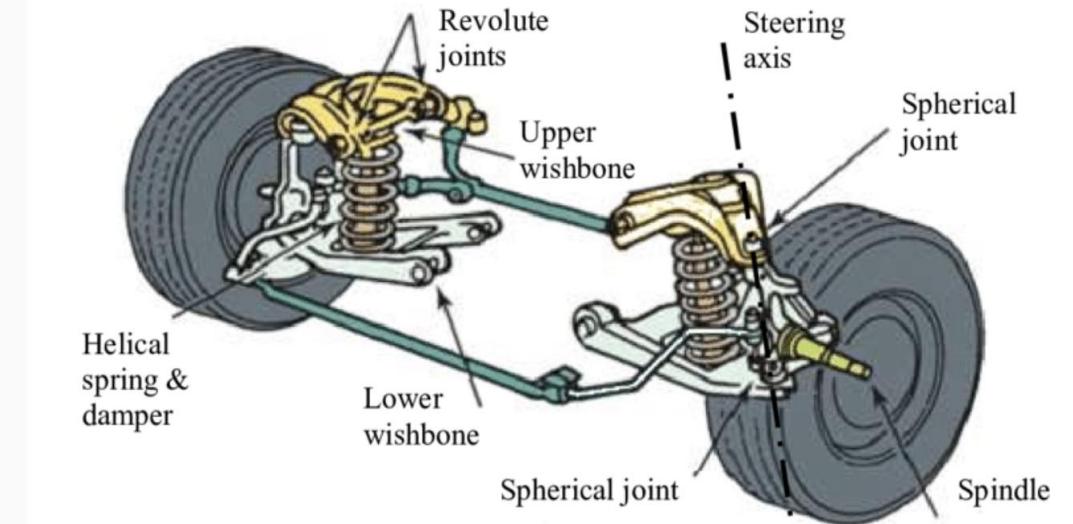
UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years
We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Suspension

Design Factors	Considerations
Loads (Static and Dynamic)	Weight, vehicle dynamics, number of impacts
Terrain	Surface type; sand, gravel, dirt
Geometry	Track width, wheel base, ground clearance
Temperature	Ambient/surface temperature, energy dissipation

- Double wishbone suspension with hydraulic dampers and spring coilovers.
- Will be bought in from companies such as:
 - o KONI
 - o Reiger
 - o KW
 - o ICON



Steering, Braking & Tyres

Steering: (Sadev Racing, Mamba Racing, Sheppard Motorsports)

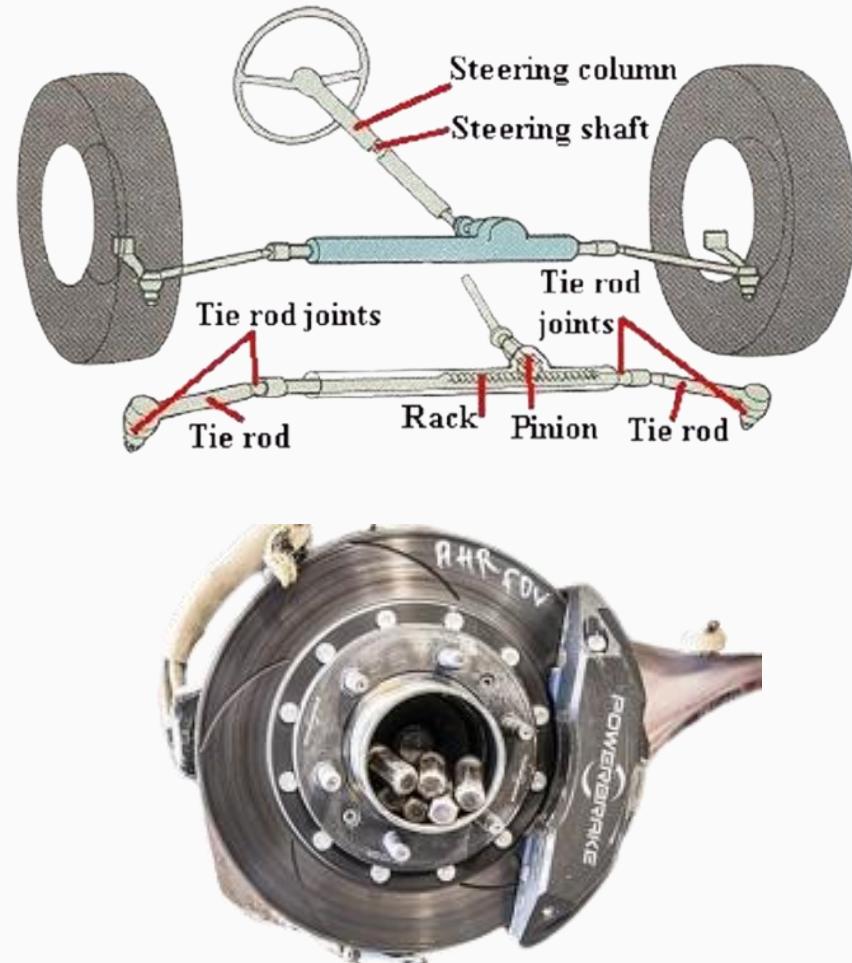
- Rack and Pinion – quick ratio and power assisted
- Reinforced design for heavy duty application
- Customisation for driver including comfort

Brakes: (Brembo, AP Racing, Alcon Brakes)

- High performance disk brakes - ventilated
- Air cooled design for body work
- Durable and balanced
- (Consider Handbrake)

Tyres: (BFGoodrich, Michelin, Pirelli)

- (Low pressure) Off-road tyres (rally stage)
- Wide with tread
- Puncture resistant
- (Wheels)



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Vehicle Dynamics

Top Speed: 160-180 km/h

Acceleration (0-100 km/h): 4-6 seconds

Distribution of Mass - Even weight distribution, low centre of gravity, load & weight transfer

Cornering & Stability – Track Width, Torque Vectoring, Steering Ratio, Ackermann Geometry, Anti-Roll Bar

Suspension & Ride Comfort - Camber angle, caster, angle, ride height, damper



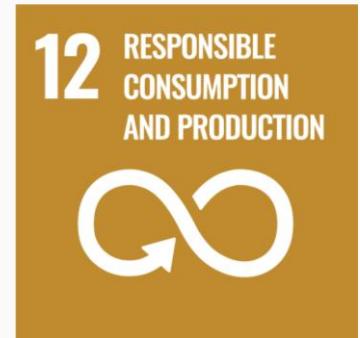
UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Sustainability

- Material selection (tyres, brake pads)
- Recyclable tyres
- Efficient brake cooling system
- Regenerative components by capturing kinetic energy of the system.

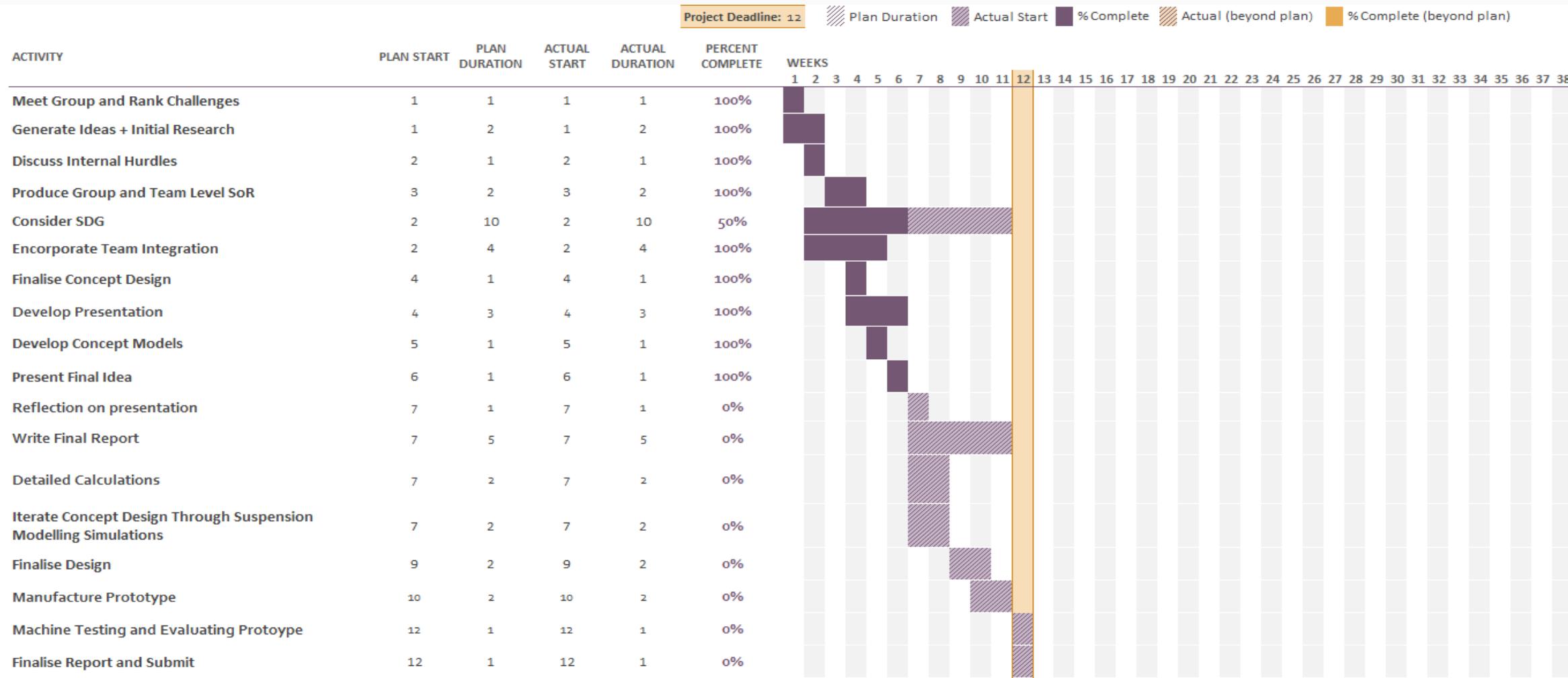


UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

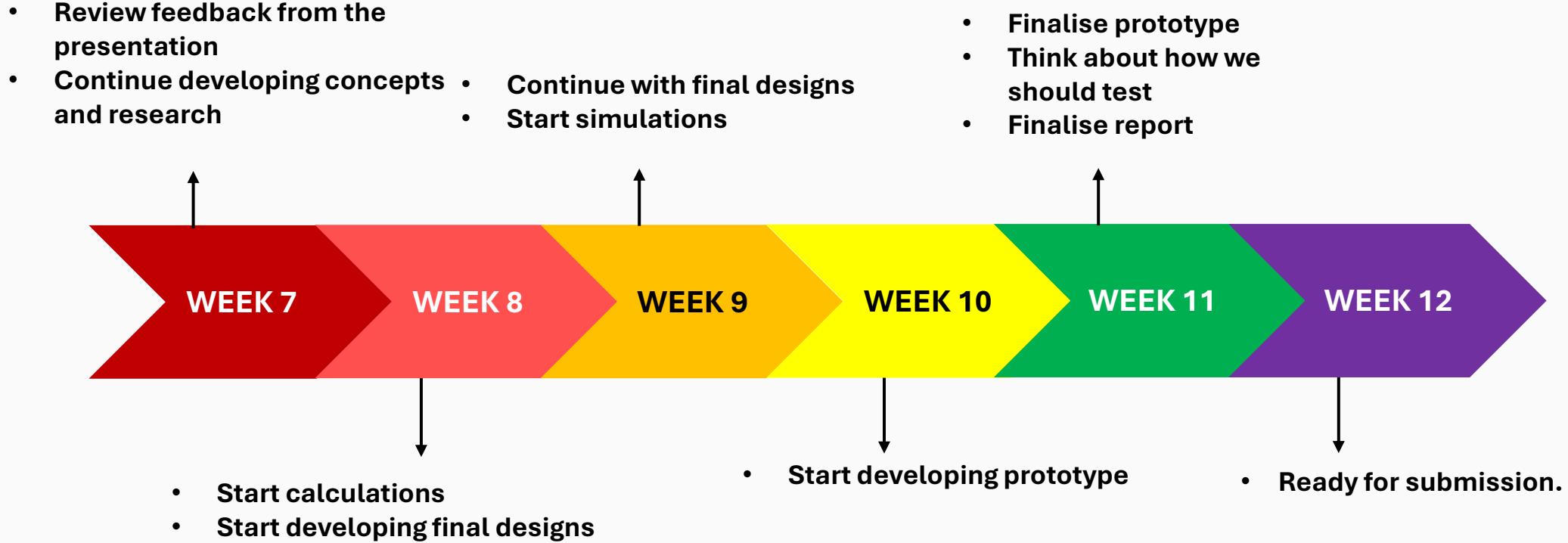
Future Plan – Gantt Chart



UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

125
years We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Future Plans



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Q&A



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



125
years
We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Adaptive Terrain Response System (ATRS) for Dakar Electric Rally Truck

BEng Elec 1



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

The Group



Junlin Zhou
Management,
general design



Jiahuan Xu
Research, simulink
implementation



Xi Jin
Design, simulink
implementation



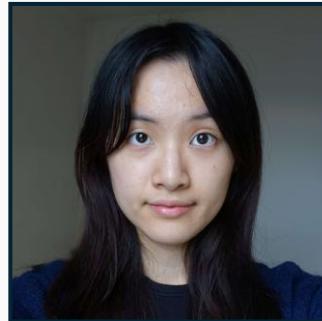
Zhejia Zhang
Communication,
software design



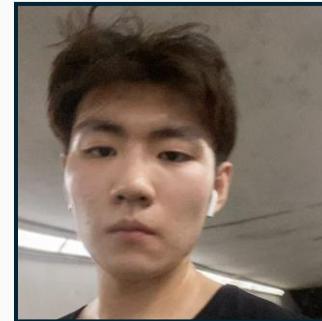
Zihan Lin
Research,
software design



Junjie Wang
Research, detailed
design



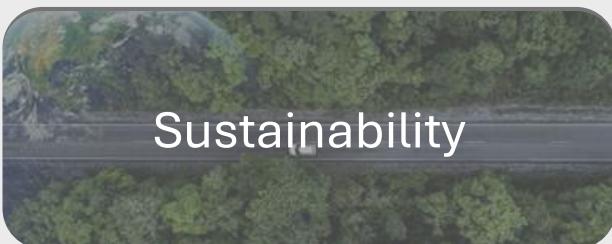
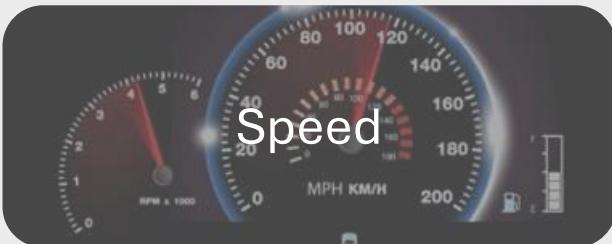
Dexin You
Research, simulink
implementation



Yi Wang
Research, detailed
design

Goals & Requirements

Team Level Challenges



BIRMINGHAM

Group Goals & Requirements

Robust hazard detection

Predictive, adaptive control

Dynamic stability management

High-speed responses

Optimized suspension control

Agile dynamic adjustments

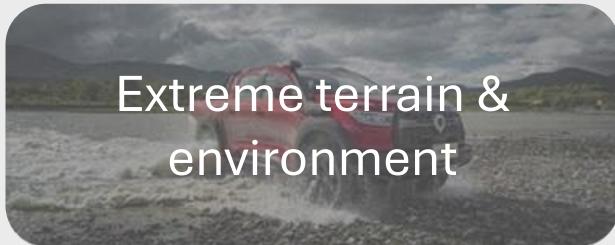
Energy-efficient design

Long-term durability

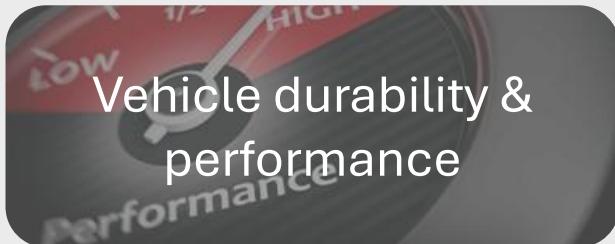
Eco-friendly operation

Related Background

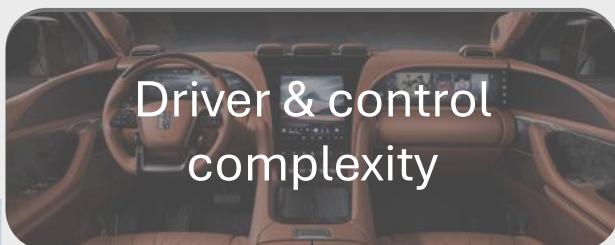
Dakar Rally Challenges



Extreme terrain & environment



Vehicle durability & performance



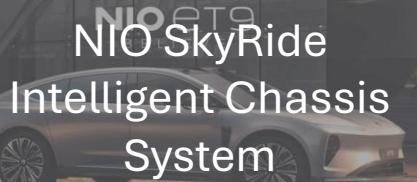
Driver & control complexity



BIRMINGHAM

Advanced Technology about Electric Vehicles

Control system



Intelligent driving system



Xpeng XNGP (Xpeng Navigation Guided Pilot)



System Overview

Perception Layer



Road surface perception system



Vehicle posture perception system

Decision Layer



Vision-based analysis system



Suspension-based analysis system

Execution Layer



Real-Time adaptive control system



Active suspension system



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Perception Layer

Subsystem 1: Road Surface Perception System

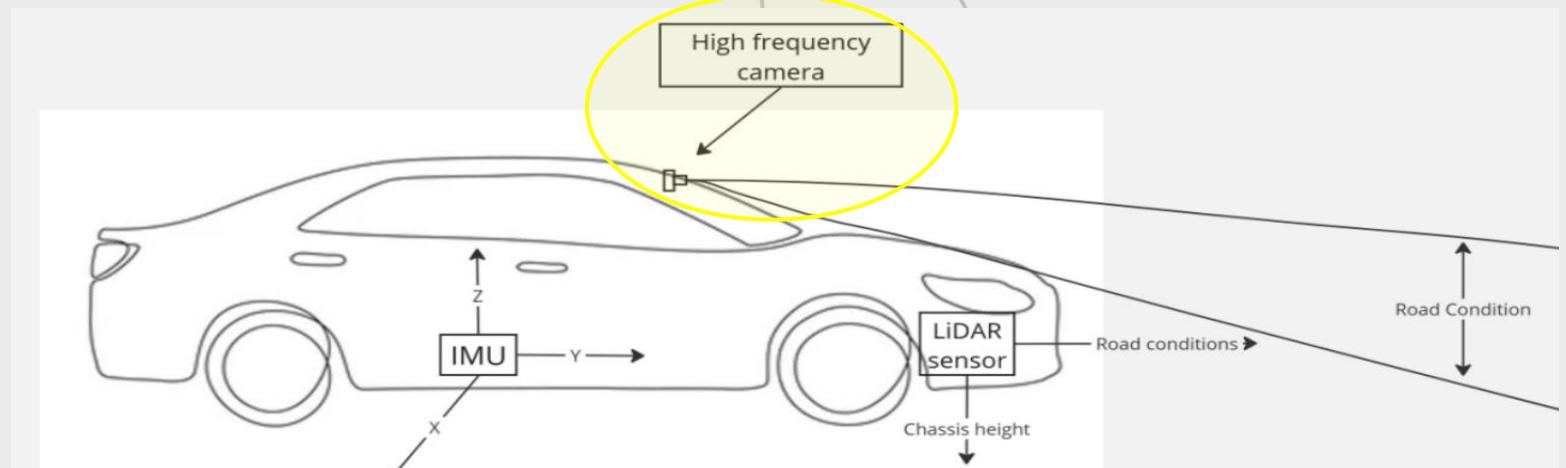
Camera

- Front-Facing Camera: Detects road conditions, vehicles, pedestrians, and information to enhance driving safety.
- Stereo Camera: Enables high-precision distance measurement for 3D recognition.



Requirements

- Environmental Adaptability
- Real-time Processing
- Vibration Resistance



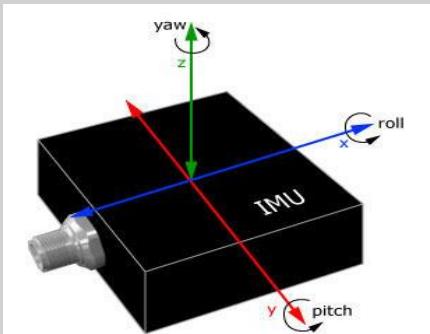
Perception Layer

Subsystem 2: Vehicle Posture Perception System

IMU

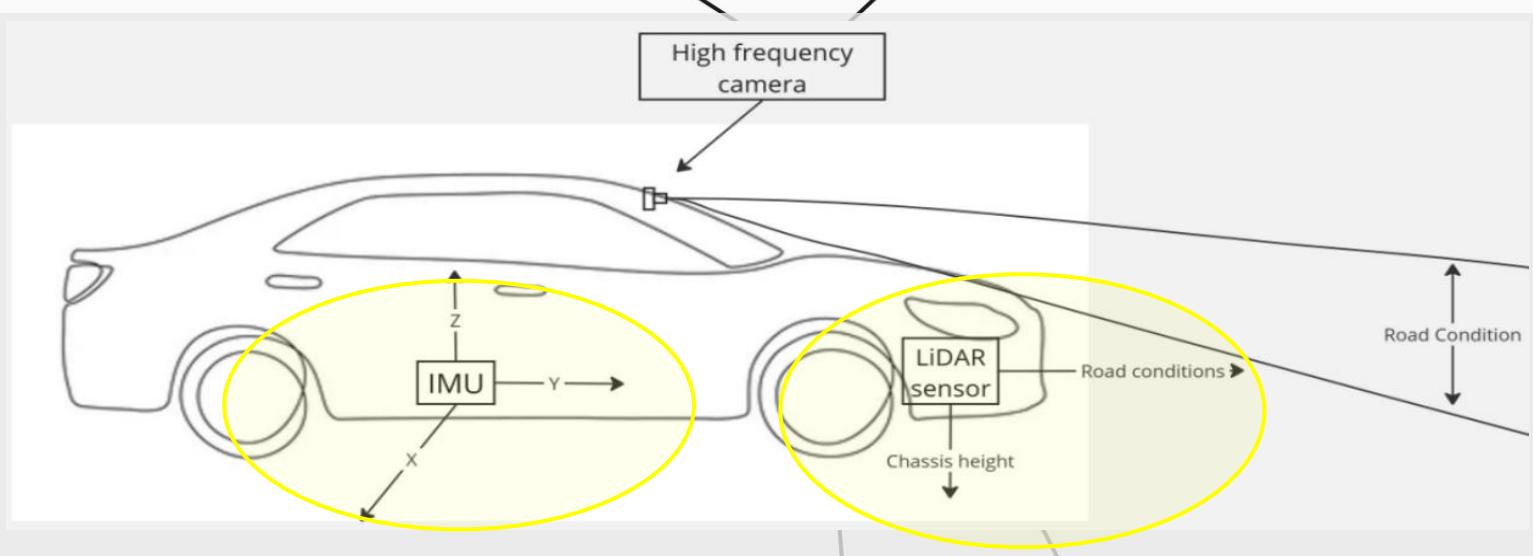
Pitch, Roll, Yaw

- Accelerometer
- Gyroscope



Requirements

- Minimized drift
- High shock and vibration resistance



Chassis Height Sensor: LiDAR

- Use laser or infrared for high-accuracy vehicle ground clearance measurement.
- Ensures strong adaptability to various surfaces.



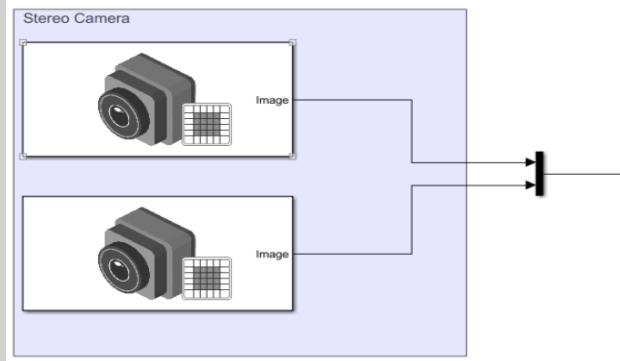
Requirements

- Environmental Adaptability
- Real-time Processing
- Vibration Resistance

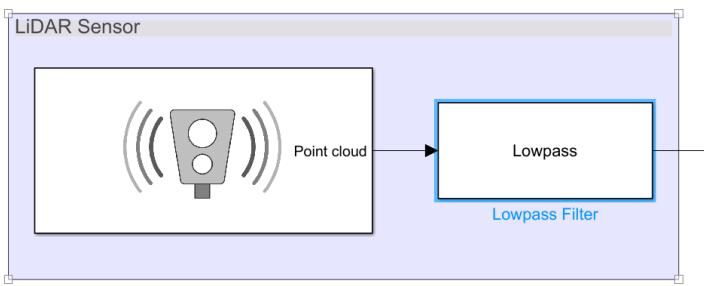
Perception Layer

Solution in Simulink

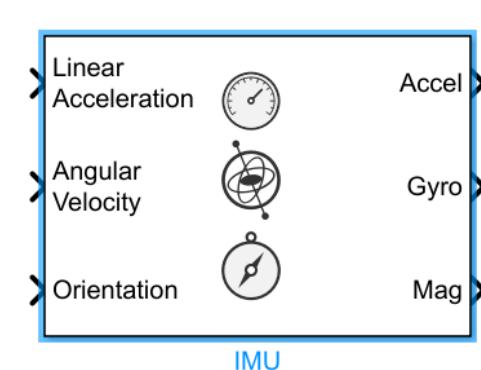
Stereo Camera



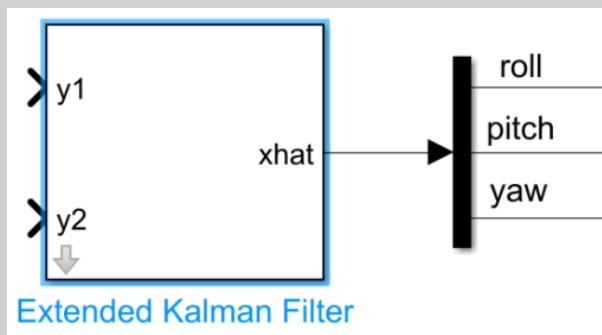
LiDAR Sensor



IMU



EKF for IMU Drift Correction:



Overall Solution:

Multi-Sensor Fusion

- Integrate LiDAR, Cameras, and IMU to enhance perception in low visibility and extreme conditions.

Enhanced Visual Perception

- Employ stereo vision and high-frame-rate cameras.
- Utilize internal Kalman filtering (EKF) for real-time drift correction.

Vibration and Noise Reduction

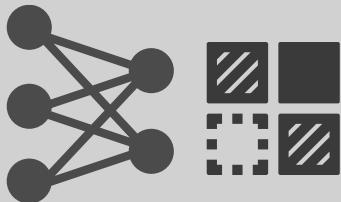
- Implement mechanical damping (rubber mounts).
- Apply low-pass filters to eliminate noise caused by road shocks.

Decision Layer

Model 1: Road Surface Analysis Based on Camera

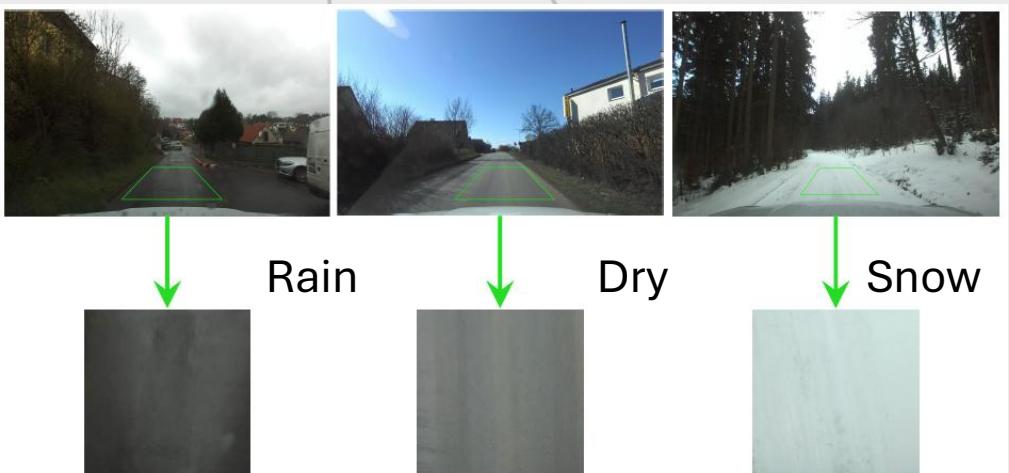
Attention region mask

- Semantic segmentation model applied
- Attention mask for road region



Surface classification

- Reshape the attention region
- Surface classification based on light weighted convolutional network

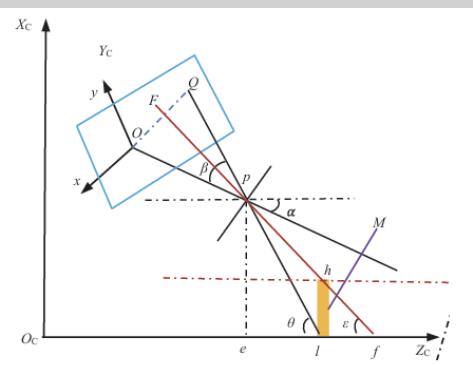


Decision Layer

Model 1: Road Surface Roughness Based on Camera

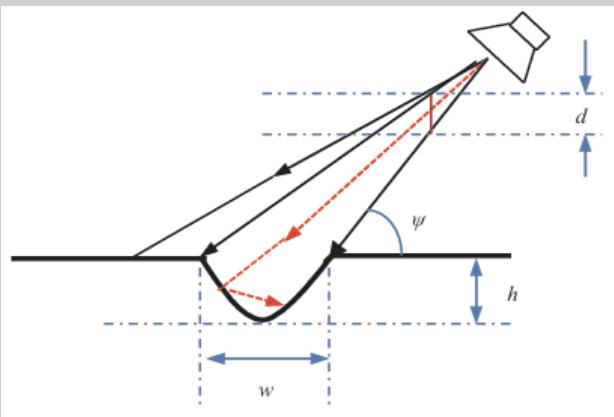
Camera detection

- Barrier detection based on greyness threshold calculated in attention region.
- Coordinates transformation from camera to world



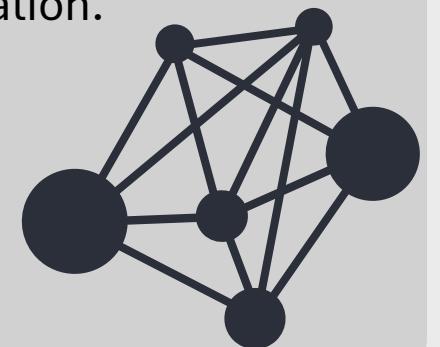
Lidar detection

- Barrier detection based on reflection beams
- Coordinates transformation from polar scan to world



Sensor fusion

- IoU (Intersect over Union) evaluation between Lidar scan and camera.
- GNN matching for data failing the IoU evaluation.



Decision Layer

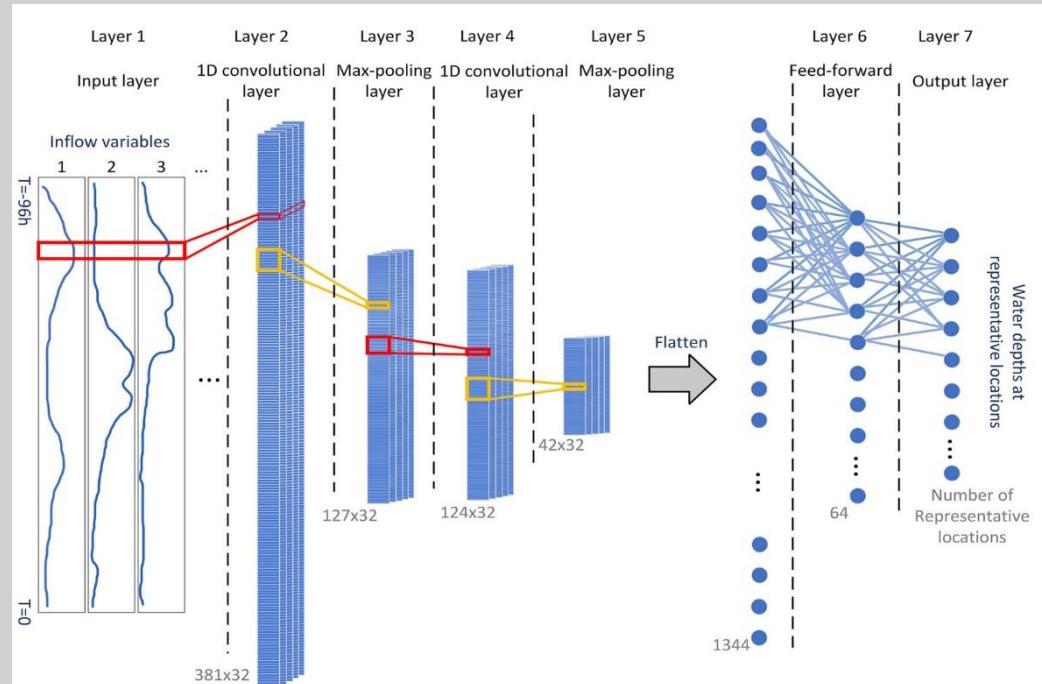
Model 2 : Road Surface Analysis Based on IMU

Introduction of Model 2

1D-CNN (1D Convolutional Neural Network) is a deep learning model designed for time-series data analysis. It extracts features from time-series suspension sensor data to detect road conditions (smooth, bumpy, potholes, slippery) and optimize suspension in real-time. It enhances race car tuning and ride performance using both real-time and historical data.

Architecture

- Input
- Conv1D Layers
- Pooling Layer
- Dense Layers
- Output



Execution Layer

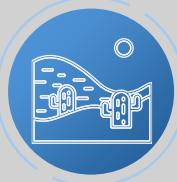
Input 1: Driving Mode

Definition

- Macro-level, global setting
- Overall driving strategy for a specific terrain

Characteristics

- Remain relatively stable
- Manually select / Change by decision layer / Stage preset



Desert mode

Prevent sinking
in sand



Rock mode

Maximize grip on
rocky terrain



Mud mode

Enhance traction in
slippery conditions



High-speed mode

Improve stability at
high speeds



Crawl mode

Improve stability on
steep inclines



Execution Layer

Input 2: Future Terrain Perception

Definition

- Short-term, dynamic adaptation
- Change within the selected driving mode

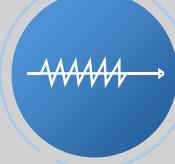
Characteristics

- Higher frequency of changes
- Change by decision layer / Stage preset
- Short-duration adjustments to refine the driving mode settings



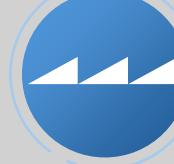
Risk of Side
Tilting

Reduce body roll



Large Gradient
& Undulations

Absorb impact



Continuous
Sand Dunes

Maintain stability



Rocky Incline
Improve traction



Extensive Loose
Gravel
Enhance stability



Marshy Terrain
Prevent slippage



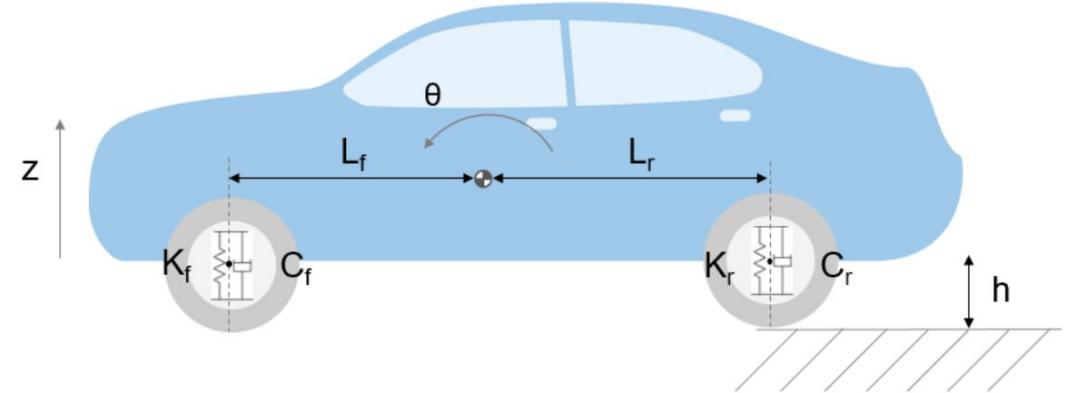
Execution Layer

Solution in Simulink

Suspension parameter matrix

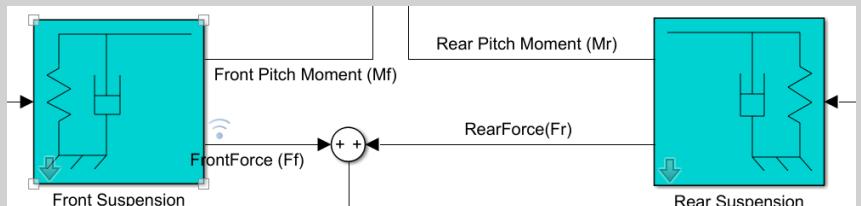
$$P = \begin{bmatrix} K_{mode} & C_{mode} & h_{mode} \\ K_{Prediction} & C_{Prediction} & h_{Prediction} \end{bmatrix}$$

- K for suspension stiffness, C for damping, h for ground clearance

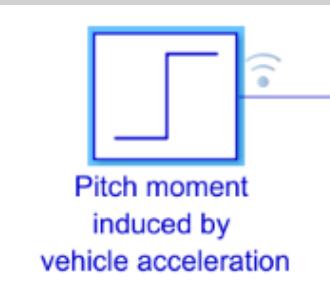


Adjustable parameters of the simulation

1. Front & Rear suspension



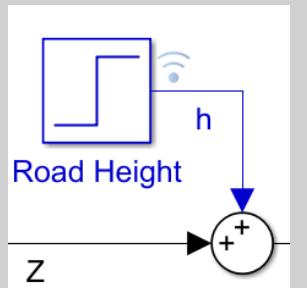
2. Pitch moment



3. Road height

Decomposed into:

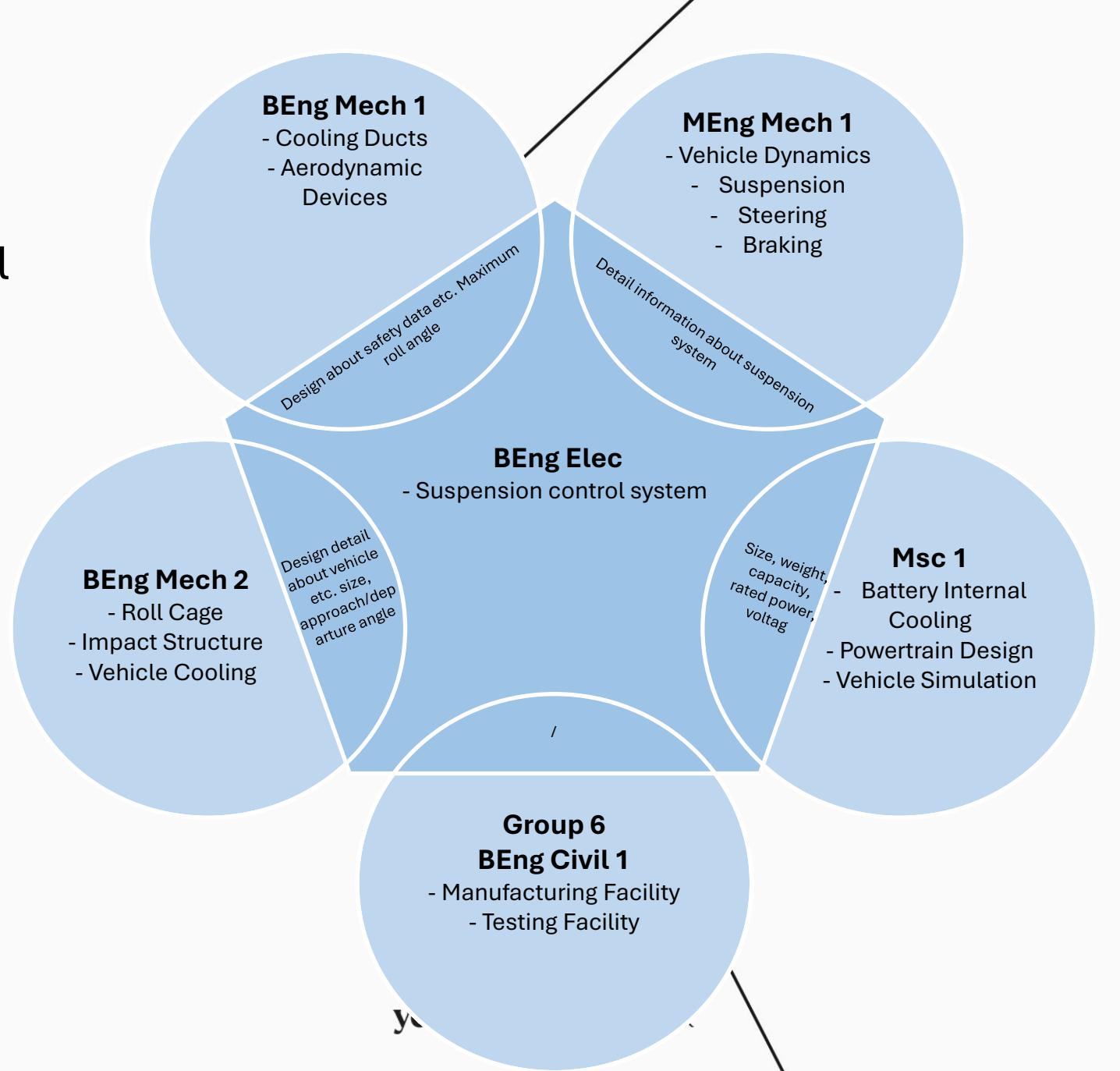
- Initial suspension height
- Suspension travel
- Adjustable range



Team Integration

Require: Design detail of the electrical truck

Feedback/outcome: reasonable control system during operation



Sustainability

SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy



High-Efficiency Energy Utilization

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Emission Reduction and Eco-Friendliness

SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
REDUCED INEQUALITIES
PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Advanced Vehicle Technology
Innovation



Infrastructure and Ecosystem
Development

SDG 13: Climate Action



Reducing the Carbon Footprint
of Racing



Promoting Sustainable Values



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

25
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

SWOT Analysis

Weaknesses

High System Complexity,
R&D and Cost Challenges,
Extreme Condition Durability



Threats

Intensifying Competition,
Hardware Dependency

Strengths

Intelligent Suspension Control, Enhanced Safety,
Integration with Advanced Chassis Tech



Opportunities

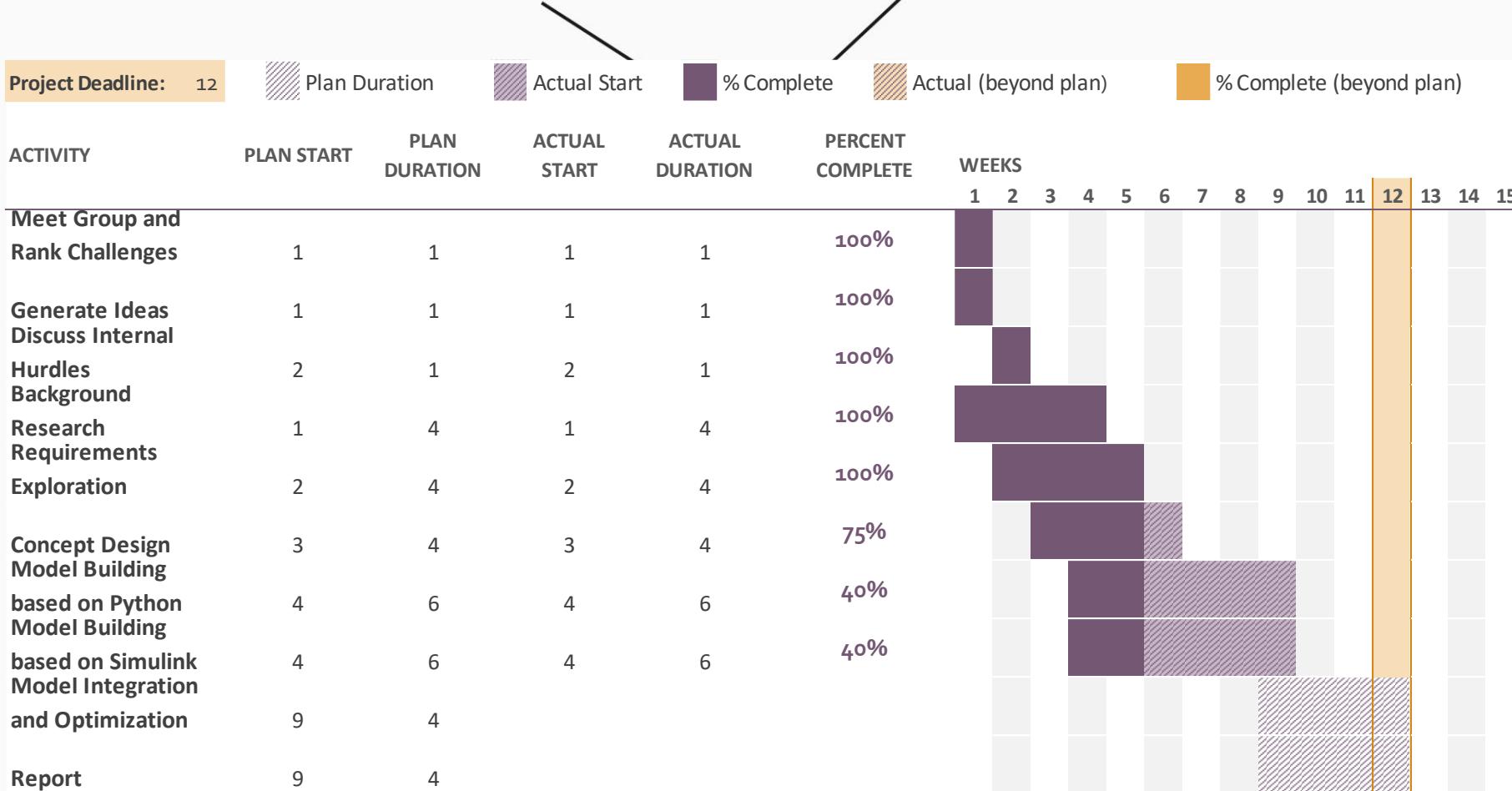
Growing EV Off-Road Market,
Emerging Smart Chassis Trends,
Dakar Rally Electrification,
Sustainability Alignment



Future Plan

Things haven't finish:

- Model building based on Python & Simulink
- Model integration and optimization
- Report



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years
We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Q&A



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



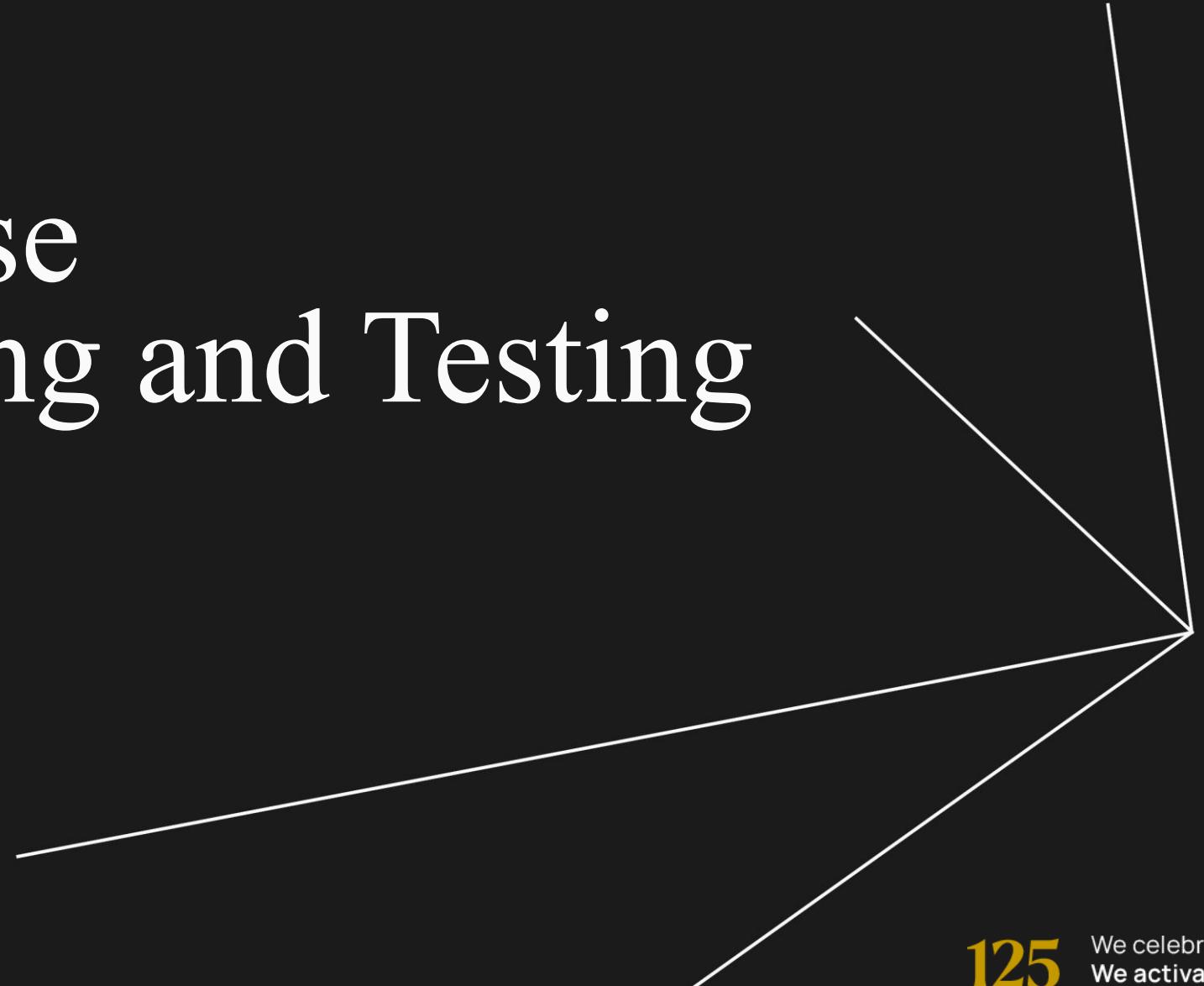
125
years
We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Multi-Purpose Manufacturing and Testing Facility

BEng Civil 1



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

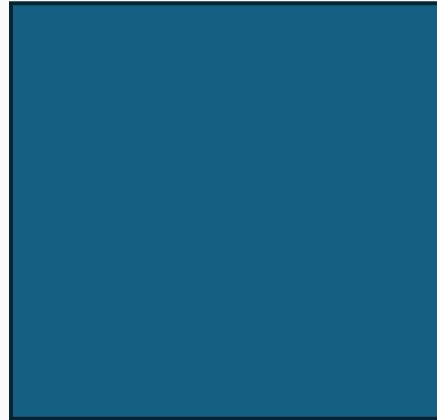


125
years
We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

The Group



Riley Male (Group Leader)



Benedict Lee



Faisal Raja



Mohammed Shariff



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Project Scope

Project Objectives

- Produce a Facility capable of Designing Modifying and Testing specialised vehicles

Deliverables

- Structural Design – Portal Frame and Connections
- Geotechnical Design – Foundation

Constraints

- Climate Conditions – Weather
- Location Data – Transport link, Ground Condition and Flooding
- Sustainable Design
- Efficient Workflow within Building
- Sufficient Health Safety and Welfare – Living Amenities as well as ventilation a

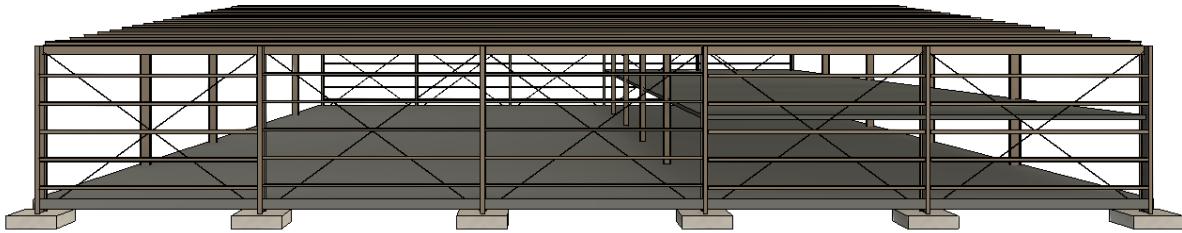
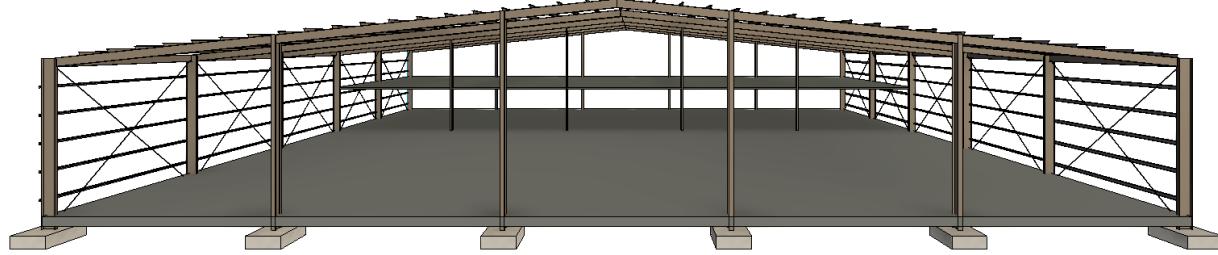


UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

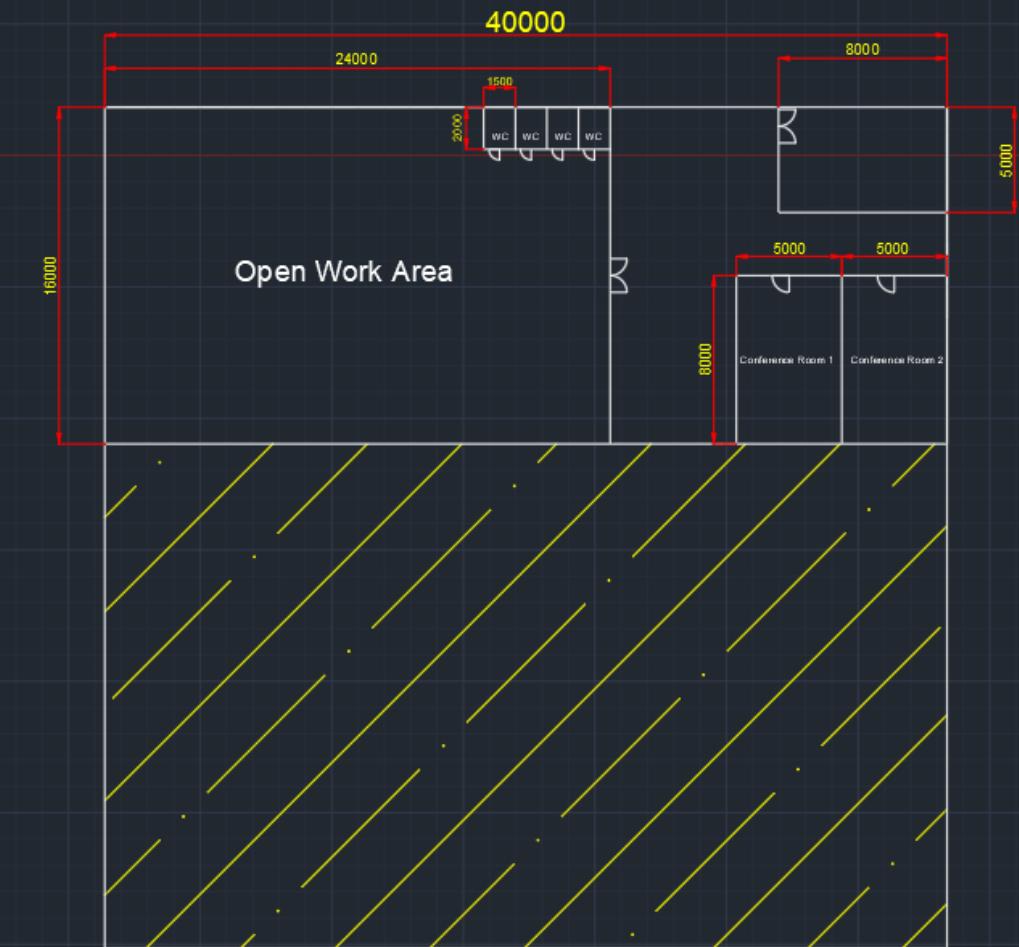
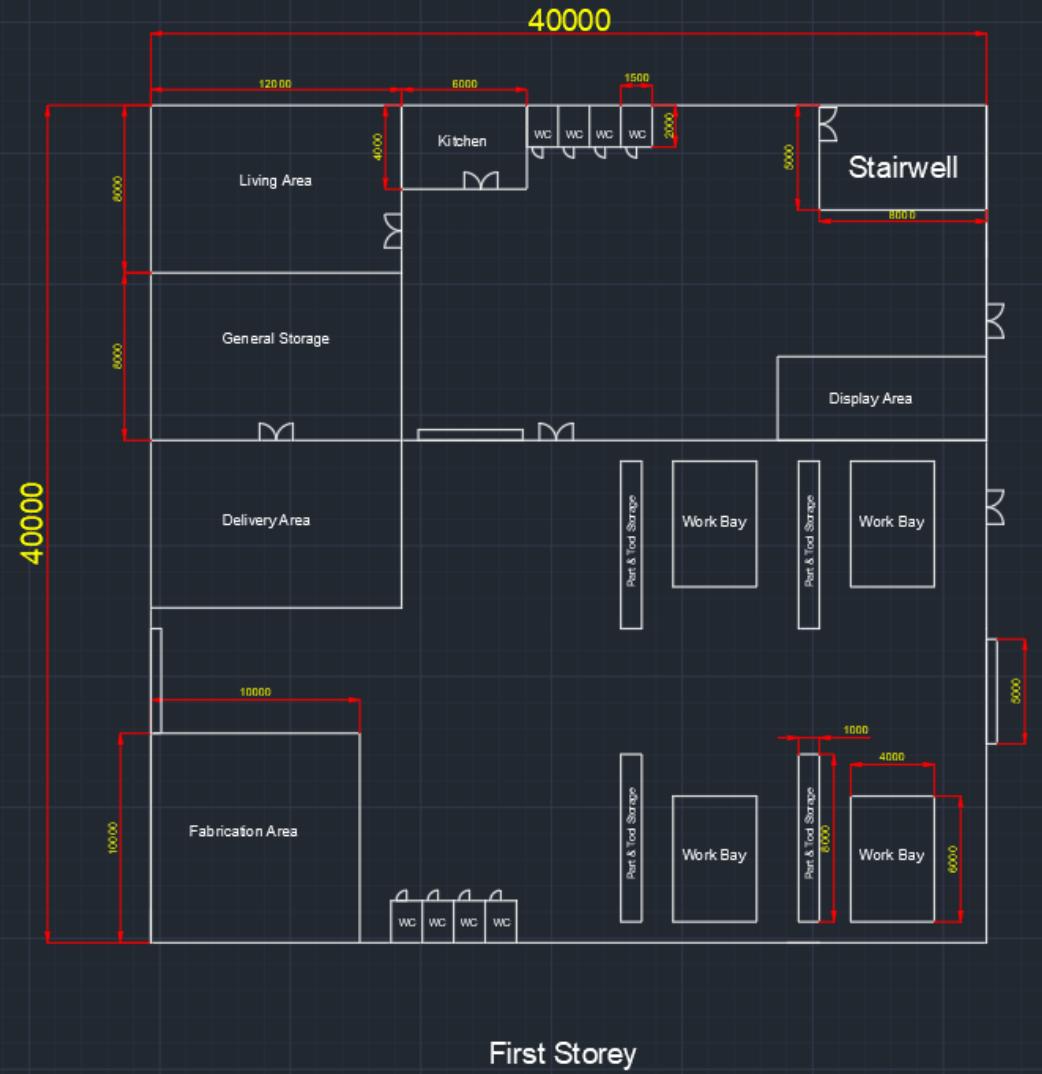
We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Concept Design



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Site Location

1



Market Demand

2



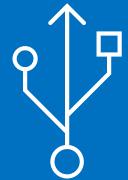
Labour Costs

3



Access to
Suppliers

4



Infrastructure and
Technology

5



Risks

6



Economic
Stability

7



Environmental
Considerations

Proximity to
key markets
with higher
demand

Cheaper
labour may
increase
profits

The ability to
transport
components
is crucial

Adequate
infrastructure
and
technology
will ensure
operability

Account for
any ground
risks, flood
risks etc.

A stable
economy will
reduce any
risks
regarding
investment

Locations
that prioritise
sustainable
practices are
preferred



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Site Location

Our facility will be in the UK due to:

- An established market demand, particularly regarding rally racing
- UK boasts a well-developed transport network
- Abundance of automotive suppliers within the UK
- Economic and political stability reducing risks regarding investment
- Regulations regarding sustainable development align with our ethics

Tongwell Industrial Estate:

- Home to major global automotive companies (e.g Mercedes-Benz)
- Well-maintained and secure industrial estate
- Convenient motorway access via J14 of M1
- Provides car parking facilities for employees

Potential Issues:

- Expenses regarding labour, energy and raw materials may induce higher costs
- Tongwell is a town which is prone to flooding, and lies just outside flood zones identified by UK government
- Possible delays to supply chains due to ongoing Brexit negotiations



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Site Location



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Flood Risk



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Health, Safety and Welfare



Training



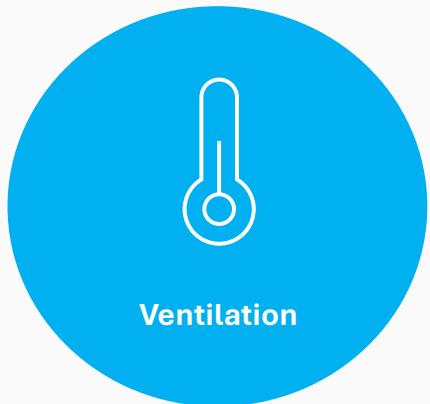
PPE



Risk
Assessment



Workplace
Inspections



Ventilation



Lighting



Emergency
Systems



Welfare
Facilities



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years
We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Sustainable Development Goals



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Sustainability

- Wind and Solar Integration
- Sustainable Materials
- Passive Design Elements

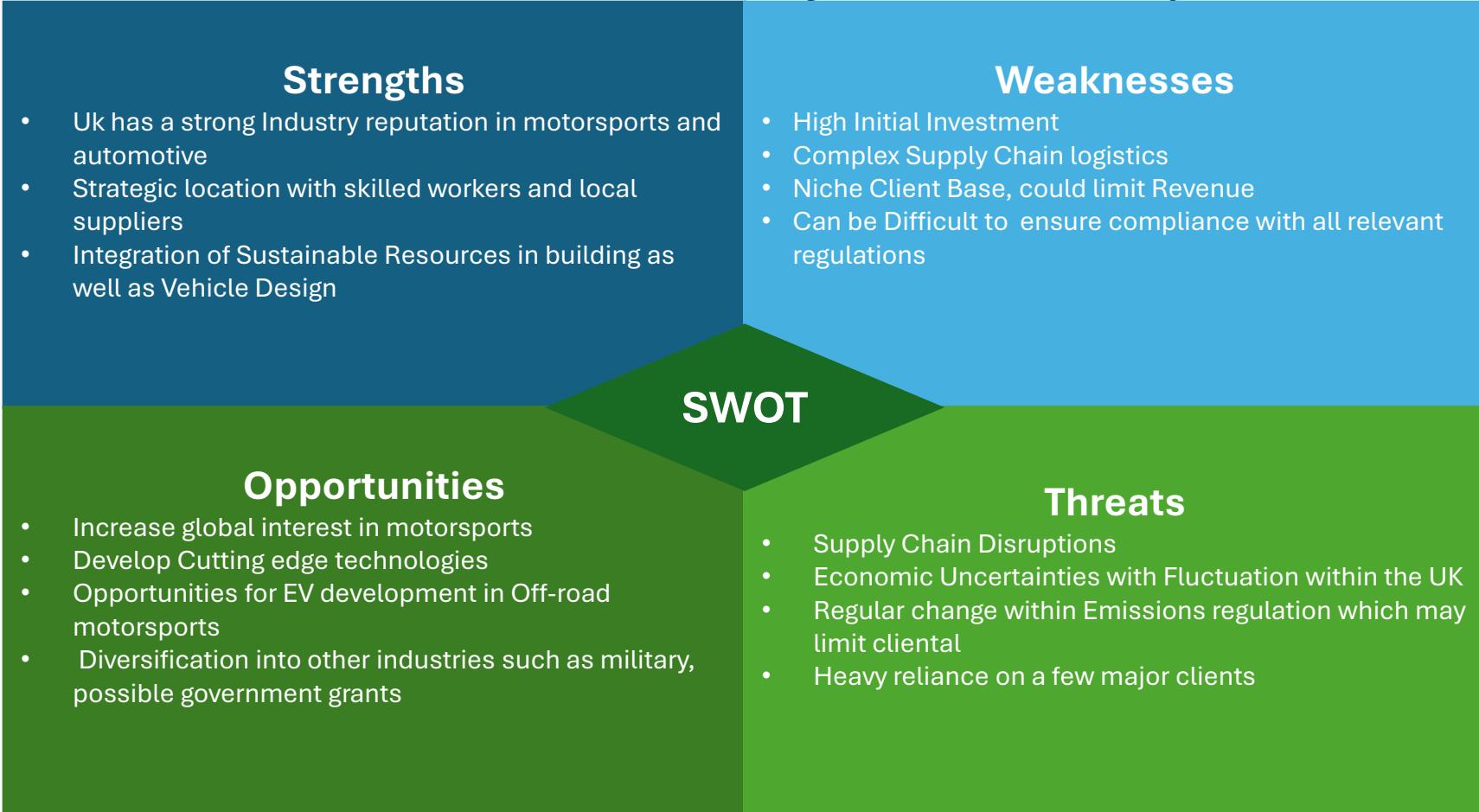


UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

SWOT analysis

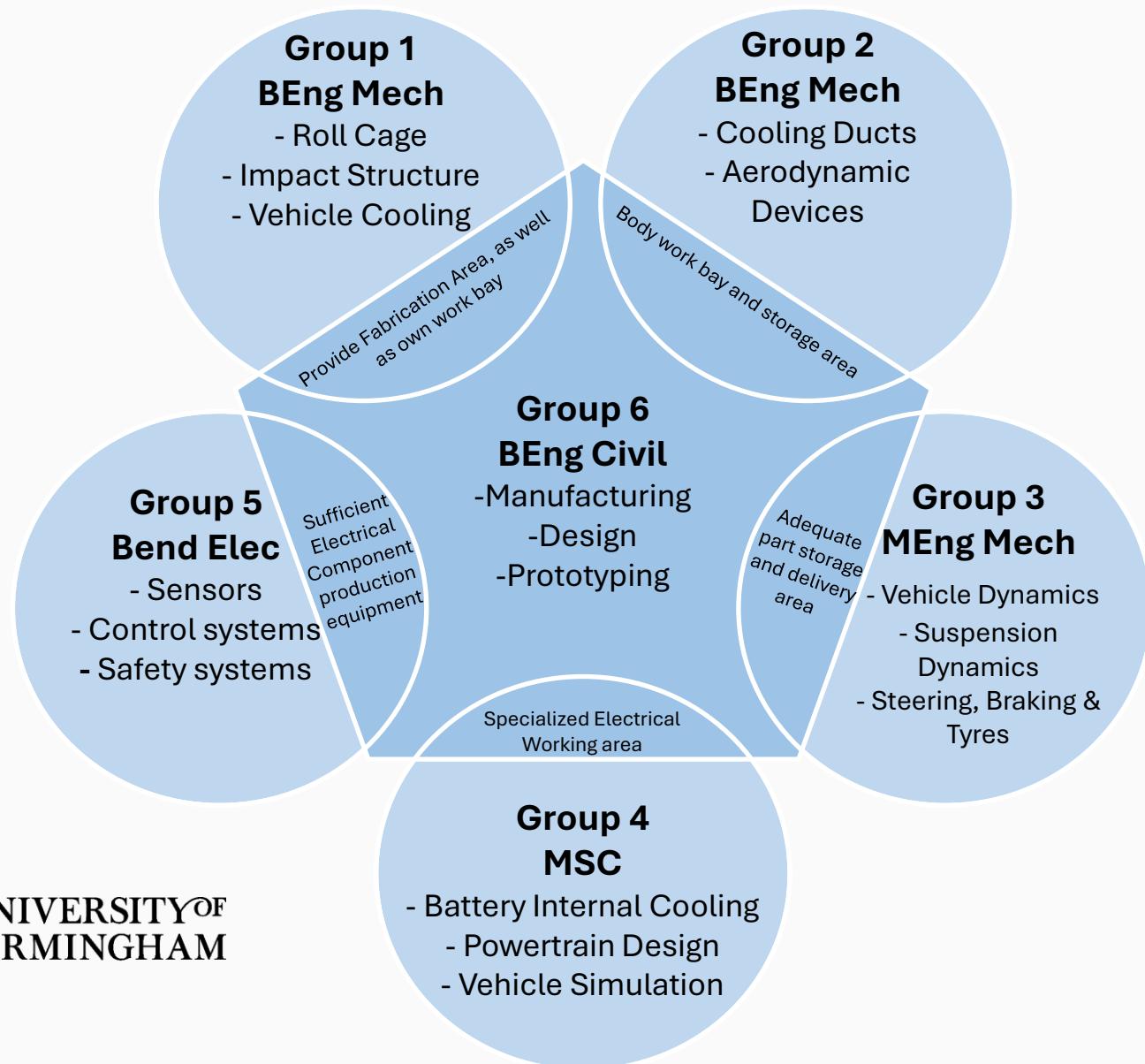


UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Team Integration

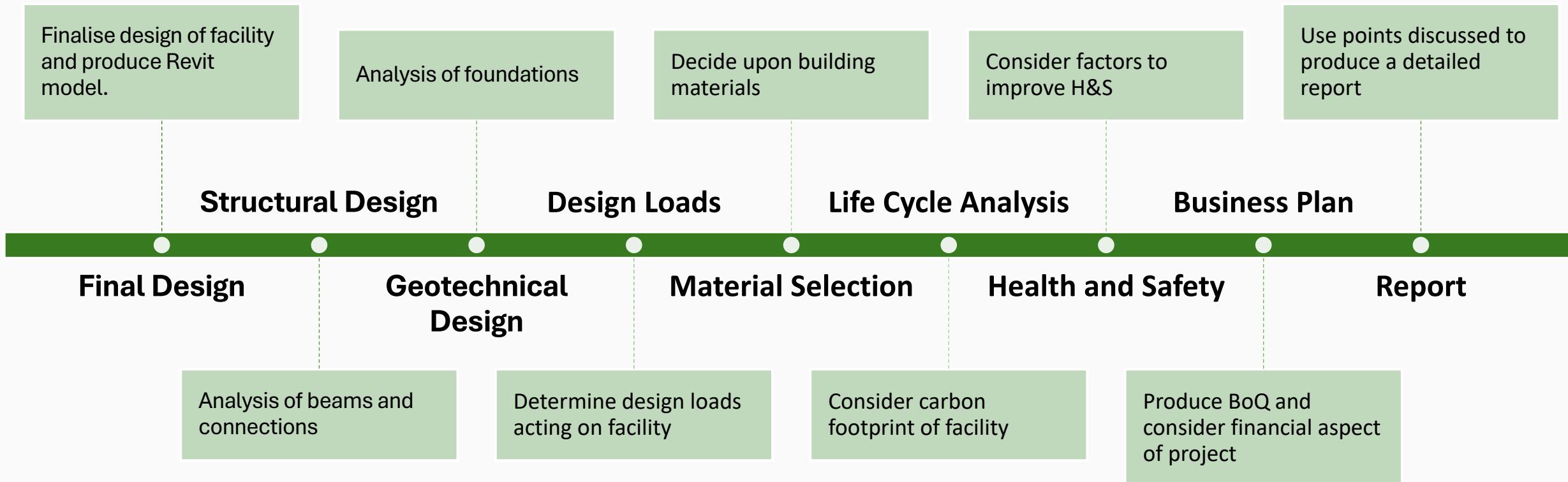


UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years

We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Future Plans



Gantt Chart



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

125
years We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk

Q&A



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



125
years
We celebrate
We activate
birmingham.ac.uk