

CaseHistory

Luxury Sports Car

The new Cadillac XLR is combining the nameplate's legendary luxury with the experience of a high performance roadster. The vehicle's composite roof is compression-molded of sheet molding composite (SMC) by Tier One supplier Meridian Automotive Systems, Grabill, Indiana.



The proprietary Meridian SMCs from which the XLR roof panels are molded, are based on resin systems from AOC, the leader in North American automotive composite resins. "We are excited that General Motors has realized the benefits our technology offers and has selected it for use on the Cadillac XLR. Our hope is that based on the success of this program, GM will seriously consider expanding the usage of SMC on future vehicles" says Mike Dettre, Business Manager - Closed Mold for AOC. "In addition to its ability to create high style, SMC is specified because it lowers vehicle weight, reduces tooling costs, and resists corrosion and denting."

Other than the Corvette, this is one of the few Class A composite parts specified by General Motors since the APV minivan. It represents successful work to resolve paint issues that now make composites more attractive than other materials.


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