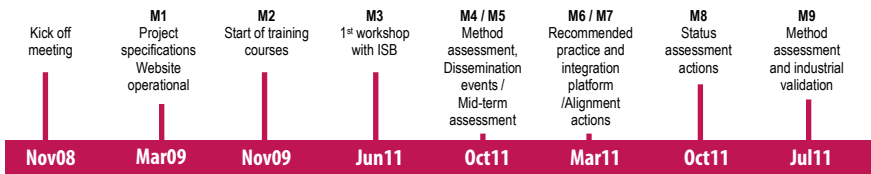


Motivation and Objectives

VECOM is an Initial Training Network and as such, its main objective is to provide dedicated research training to young researchers in the emerging field of vehicle concept modeling. From the scientific point of view, this objective is aligned with the need to integrate concept modeling and simulation applications at the very early stages of the industrial vehicle design process, in order to reduce the time to market. With this in mind, the training program of the Marie Curie fellows includes the following research targets:

- Develop a novel upfront analysis engineering capability to condition early on and efficiently decisions for detailed design,
- Enable a multi-attribute process, allowing to balance possibly conflicting attributes,
- Provide an integrated optimization process from the concept stage onwards, supporting OEMs to shorten the design process with improved quality and at reduced costs,
- Develop related simulation methodologies which will make Europe take the lead on the level of CAE.

Project Plan, Milestones and Deliverables



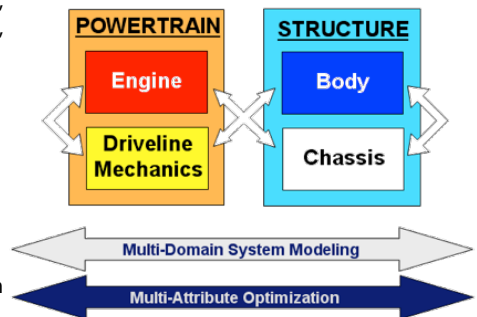
Technical Approach

For training of Fellows: Establishment of a structured training programme involving a mix of:

- Formal teaching: PhD courses, seminars...
- Transfer-of-knowledge actions: workshops, conferences, industry secondments,
- Research through formal involvement in projects,
- Training in non-technical skills: language courses, management courses...

For scientific progress: Based on a dual area of attention:

- Research for the vehicle and its subsystems, and for multiple performance attributes, focusing on the two core constituent parts of the vehicle: powertrain (engine and driveline) and structure (body and chassis);
- Horizontal integration activity: creation of system models incorporating all available information in each design stage and development of methodologies for multi-attribute balancing and optimization.



Achievements

- 16 Early Stage Researchers and 2 Experienced Researchers recruited so far in training programme.
- Dissemination activities, including creation and maintenance of VECOM website.
- Training activities:
 - Organisation of 4 specific workshops, with external attendance,
 - Consortium workshops every 6 months,
 - Special VECOM sessions in two international conferences,
 - Publications in international journals and conferences.

Budget		Funding	3.7 M€
Duration	48 months	Start	October 2008
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