**Composites UK response to TRA announcement on glass fibre trade remedy review**

25 April 2022

Composites UK is the trade association for the UK composites industry representing the whole supply chain from material supplier through manufacturer to end-user. Glass fibre and its products are widely used within our sector and account for around 85-90% of the total volume of composite product made in the UK. Glass fibre composite materials are used in an increasingly wide variety of applications and growing sectors critical to the UK economy and delivery of UK Net-Zero targets: primarily the automotive and transport sectors, the electrical/electronics industry and the construction and wind industries.

Composites UK supports a level playing field for all and the presence of subsidies enables that. We therefore welcome the proposal announced on 20 April 2022 to maintain anti-dumping measures on continuous glass fibre for a further 5 years (until Jan 2026). The Chinese Government subsidies its exporting glass-fibre producers and so UK producers would not be able to compete on a cost basis.

Composites UK also has the responsibility to represent the long-term interests of all our members and as such we are concerned about the proposal to revoke measures on glass fibre mat. Although this product is not currently manufactured in the UK, revoking the current measures makes it highly unlikely that it will ever be produced in the UK, and UK product manufacturers will have to continue to rely on material supply from China. The vulnerability of these long supply chains has been highlighted due to the current crisis in the materials market, recently exacerbated by the impact of the conflict in the Ukraine on transportation of material due to freight/rail sanctions against Russia.

Mid-long-term damage to the UK composites manufacturing sector could arise because of tariffs being removed as there is also a risk that the country subsidising the market will eventually create a monopoly and can then control prices, or worse, supply (as China has already done with metals). Without measures in place, the UK will lose, and therefore not benefit from (in terms of jobs and GDP), development and supply of UK-based glass-fibre. It will be dependent on Chinese glass-fibre, with increasing shipping costs and delays impacting supply.

The UK will also have no control over the carbon footprint of the imported glass-fibre strands to produce mat. This is increasingly important to enable UK manufacturers deliver parts in line with design requirements of the rapidly growing number of environmentally responsible OEMs and lead to loss of UK and international business for UK manufacturers. Composites are critical to key growing markets such as wind energy and hydrogen. In the longer term, this will impact negatively on the UKs ability to meet the demands of these markets and deliver against the UK Government NetZero targets.