

Integral Life-Sensing Capability for Laminated Structures and Products

Track Code: 64631

Categories:

- Mechanical Engineering

Keywords:

- Mechanical Engineering
- Sensors

Many devices are consistently subjected to harsh, unpredictable conditions and become susceptible to external injury. Even with proper maintenance and inspection, some types of damage are not easily detected or preventable. Damage to laminated structures can be especially harmful. Damage to tires occurs because of gap damage within the tread, over-deflection, cuts, punctures, imbalance, impact, rubber hardening/degradation, or improper mounting/repair.

Purdue University researchers have developed a sensing method that can alert operators when a device's structural integrity has degraded. This can save time and effort in repairing or deciding to change the tire, and in some situations, prolong the operable life of a tire. This new sensing method not only detects unsafe operating conditions, but also alerts operators of damage that occurs in situ.

Advantages:

- Sensors detect internal and external changes in structural condition
- Ability to sense multiple types of structural damage and pinpoint location of failure
- Low cost solution
- Readily incorporated into traditional manufacturing processes
- Real time life evaluation
- Advanced detection allows safer operation and use of devices, eases repair efforts, and prolongs device life by allowing condition based maintenance

Potential Applications:

- Products with structures subject to stresses that can lead to structural failure, including tires, airfoils, and pipes used in mobile machinery, automotive, aerospace, manufacturing, and process equipment

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Intellectual Property:

Application Date: June 22, 2006
Type: NATL-Patent
Country of Filing: European Patent
Patent Number: 1896822
Issue Date: November 7, 2018

Application Date: June 22, 2006
Type: EP-Patent
Country of Filing: Germany
Patent Number: " f"cf#"
Issue Date: November 7, 2018

Application Date: June 22, 2006
Type: EP-Patent
Country of Filing: United Kingdom
Patent Number: " f"cf#"
Issue Date: November 7, 2018

Application Date: June 22, 2006
Type: NATL-Patent
Country of Filing: China
Patent Number: ZL200680022345.0
Issue Date: March 16, 2011

Application Date: June 22, 2006
Type: NATL-Patent
Country of Filing: Japan
Patent Number: 4686603
Issue Date: February 18, 2011

Application Date: June 22, 2006
Type: CIP-Patent
Country of Filing: United States
Patent Number: 7,752,904
Issue Date: July 13, 2010

Application Date: June 22, 2006
Type: NATL-Patent
Country of Filing: South Korea
Patent Number: 10-0964052
Issue Date: June 8, 2010

Application Date: March 2, 2006
Type: Utility Patent

Country of Filing: United States
Patent Number: 7,555,936
Issue Date: July 7, 2009

Application Date: June 22, 2006
Type: PCT-Patent
Country of Filing: WO
Patent Number: (None)
Issue Date: (None)

Application Date: June 22, 2005
Type: Provisional-Patent
Country of Filing: United States
Patent Number: (None)
Issue Date: (None)

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