



**PRESS RELEASE**

**SOGEFI LAUNCHES IN THE MARKET FIRST SUSPENSION COMPONENTS IN COMPOSITE MATERIALS WHICH REDUCE VEHICLE WEIGHT AND CONSUMPTION**

*The new FRP (Fiberglass Reinforced Plastic) coil springs, patented by the group, can reduce the weight of a car by 4-6 kg, eliminating the use of steel.*

*First agreement signed with Audi*

*Benefits for the environment even from the production process because energy consumption is 3-5 times lower and 100% of the waste produced is recycled*

Milan, March 2 2012 - **Sogefi**, the producer of automotive components belonging to the **CIR group**, is launching on the market **the first suspension springs made from composite materials, which can contribute to the reduction in weight and consumption of cars.** The company, which is one of the world leaders in engine systems and suspension components, has **patented a new type of coil spring made from fiberglass reinforced plastic (FRP) which weighs between 40 and 70% less than the traditional steel springs.** The new springs, which can be mounted on cars and light commercial vehicles, make it possible to **reduce the weight of cars by 4-6 kilos**, with resulting benefits in terms of lower consumption. Replacing steel with the new materials, which do not rust, guarantees a longer life for the springs and less noise, as well as a **significant reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions** (up to – 0.5 g per vehicle) .

**Audi** was the first manufacturer to accept Sogefi's revolutionary FRP Coil Springs. Following joint development work, the FRP coil springs have been adapted to Audi's requirements and will find use in an upcoming model.

*"Following the Sogefi group's tradition for innovation – commented **Chief Executive Emanuele Bosio** – we are proud to be able to introduce the first composite coil springs to the market. We are confident that this new technology will have an important role in future generations of eco-sustainable vehicles "*

This innovation also guarantees a significant **improvement of the environmental impact of the production process** compared to the traditional one. Producing the new FRP coil springs uses between three and five times less energy and makes it possible to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. The new process is also much faster and produces less waste, which can in any case all be recycled.

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