Aluminum Battery Enclosure Design

Andreas Afseth
Technical Director, Automotive Body Sheet, North America
CONSTELLIUM
2. Aluminum usage in Battery Electric Vehicles and Battery Enclosures
3. Drivers for material choice in Battery Electric Vehicles
4. Specific requirements for Battery Enclosures
5. Summary and conclusions
Constellium At A Glance

Key Figures

- 100+ years of experience
- ~13k employees
- +28 production facilities
- 3 R&D Centers
- €5.9 Bn 2019 revenue

Products And Solutions

- Rolled Products
- Extruded Products
- Automotive Components
- Recycling
Where We Operate

An extensive footprint for design, development and production in Europe, North America and China
Constellium activity in global Automotive

- Car Body Closures
- Decorative Parts
- Heat Exchangers
- Body Structures
- Crash Management Systems
- Battery Enclosures & Cooling Plates
Agenda

1. Constellium

2. Aluminum usage in Battery Electric Vehicles and Battery Enclosures

3. Drivers for material choice in Battery Electric Vehicles

4. Specific requirements for Battery Enclosures

5. Summary and conclusions
Aluminum content in North American Light Vehicles

Aluminum continues to be the fastest growing material in automotive applications. Growth from 2020 onwards is driven by substitution of steel in platform parts as well as through significantly higher aluminum content of battery electric vehicles.
Automotive Aluminum Applications by Parts

Platform parts (structural)
- Body-in-white
- Body closures
- Chassis
- Suspension and frame parts
- BEV: Battery Enclosure

Component parts (non-structural)
- Powertrain
- Driveline
- Transmission,
- Trim
- Brake
- Steering
- Wheels
- Heat exchangers
- BEV: Electric Motor housing
- BEV: Converter housing
- BEV: Gearbox housing
- BEV: Battery Cables

Source: DuckerFrontier
Aluminum Content BEV vs non-BEV

BEVs use more than three times as much aluminum than non-BEVs in platform parts today. This difference will be reduced to a factor of ~2 by 2026 as aluminum platform use is increased in non-BEVs and several smaller BEV models are launched.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Platform</th>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Non-Platform</th>
<th>Non-Component</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>643</td>
<td>447</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2026</td>
<td>629</td>
<td>454</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: DuckerFrontier
Eliminated ICE Parts

- **Powertrain**: Internal combustion engine related components, such as block, cylinder head, cam cover, oil pan, piston, etc., are eliminated on BEVs.

- **Transmission and Driveline**: Transmission case, valve body, clutch housing, etc. are major aluminum components removed from ICE models. For AWD and RWD models, components such as transfer case, drive shaft, differential carriers are also not necessary on BEVs.

Added BEV Parts

- **BEV Powertrain**: Aluminum casting or extruded traction motor housing will compensate the loss from engine parts; dual motor models will need two housings. Some BEV powertrain may need reduction gearbox, of which case is normally aluminum casting. Electrical units such as inverter/converter/BMS are also packed in aluminum casting housings.

- **BEV Platform**: BEVs have stronger needs for lightweighting than ICE models to improve range. Aluminum penetration of platform parts, including closure and body platform components, is higher on BEVs. With more lower-segment BEVs entering the market, the average content of aluminum platform parts is likely to decrease after 2022.

Aluminum Content Change – BEV to ICE

- **BEV Powertrain** includes motor housing, gearbox, electrical control units, etc.
- **BEV Platform** includes closure, body structures, battery housing, etc.

Source: DuckerFrontier
Major Aluminum Parts in BEV

**Battery Pack Structure**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Typical Product Type</th>
<th>Typical Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frame &amp; structure</td>
<td>Extrusion</td>
<td>75 Lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooling System</td>
<td>Extrusion/Sheet</td>
<td>10 Lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top Cover</td>
<td>Sheet</td>
<td>15 Lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tray / Lower cover</td>
<td>Sheet / Extrusion / Casting</td>
<td>45 Lbs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Traction & Electrical System**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Typical Product Type</th>
<th>Typical Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Traction Motor Housing</td>
<td>Casting, Extrusion</td>
<td>30 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduction Gearbox</td>
<td>Casting</td>
<td>25 Lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inverter/Converter Housing</td>
<td>Casting</td>
<td>6 Lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMS Housing</td>
<td>Casting</td>
<td>5 Lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wiring Tube/Connector</td>
<td>Extrusion, Casting</td>
<td>4 Lbs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Body and Closure**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Typical Product Type</th>
<th>Typical Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Body Structure</td>
<td>Casting, Extrusion, Sheet</td>
<td>200 Lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closures</td>
<td>Sheet</td>
<td>100 Lbs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Battery Enclosure – Material choice current vehicles

The majority of long range BEVs in current production worldwide use aluminum as the main material for the battery enclosure.
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4. Specific requirements for Battery Enclosures
5. Constellium development and prototyping capabilities
Drivers for Material Choice and Lightweight design

**Performance**
- Range
- Acceleration / driving dynamics
- Towing capability / payload
- Energy consumption
- Charging time
- Safety / crash / fire resistance
- Durability for lifetime of vehicle

**Cost**
- Component material cost
- Component manufacturing cost
- Cost impact of re-sized structure/powertrain
- Total solution cost

**Sustainability**
- Life Cycle Analysis
- CO₂ impact of manufacturing phase
- CO₂ impact of use-phase
- End-of-life recycling / re-use
Drivers for material choice: Performance

- A lighter vehicle body will always have a better overall balance of key BEV performance criteria.
- An optimized aluminum design for individual components or complete vehicle body structure is ~ 40% lighter than an equally optimized steel design.
- A cheaper but heavier steel body can achieve the same range and even acceleration as a light aluminum body by adding more batteries and using more powerful electric motors → secondary weight gain
- 100 kg primary increase in body structure weight of a long-range electric SUV require around 3.5% larger battery and 6% more powerful motor to achieve same range and acceleration. (*)

* https://ee.hydro.com/automotivewebinar
Drivers for material choice: Cost

- Raw material cost comparison ≠ value of light-weight design.
- Cost of weight saving by design or material substitution must be considered in relation to the secondary weight and cost saving of body structure, battery and component re-sizing.
- Historically high battery cost ($/kWh) and low storage density (Wh/kg) made value of light weight construction obvious = savings just from downsized battery packs easily paid for increased material cost when choosing aluminum over steel.
- As battery costs and energy density continue to improve, the $-value of light-weighting will be reduced, and we expect to see increased material competition.
- The value proposition of light-weight aluminum design is more compelling for large and/or performance-oriented vehicles and we expect to see aluminum remain dominant in these segments.
Drivers for material choice: Sustainability

- Green House Gas (GHG) impact of design and material choice is best assessed on specific cases by Life Cycle Analysis respecting ISO 14040/44 guidelines.
- There are limited unbiased studies on the GHG impact of light-weight design with aluminum compared to other materials specific for all-electric vehicles.
- Results can be very misleading if using assumptions that do not reflect reality for CO₂ emissions during primary manufacturing of aluminum or how much aluminum is recycled.
- Key facts to explain the potential net positive carbon footprint of light-weighting BEVs with aluminum are:

At the end of a vehicle’s life, automotive aluminum is 96% recycled and reused for automotive parts.
(Source: WPI 2016, 2018)

CO₂ content per kg

- 100% post consumer: 0.5 kg
- 75% Post consumer: 2.3 kg
- Primary Hydro / renewables: 4 kg
- Primary North America: 8.5 kg
- Primary World average: 17 kg
- Primary China: 20 kg
Poll #1

Which criteria is most important for you personally to choose a battery electric vehicle over an ICE or hybrid car?

A = Longer range

B = Reduced charging time

C = Minimal lifecycle CO₂ footprint

D = Cost, will only buy a BEV if it is cheaper than the alternatives
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Battery Enclosures Design Criteria

Safety: Crash, impact and fire resistance:
• Vehicle crash / side impact resistance
• Bottom impact resistance
• Firewall protection of passenger compartment

Sealing, shielding and durability
• Waterproof seal of battery modules
• Electromagnetic shielding
• Corrosion resistance and bond durability for life-time of vehicle.

Thermal management:
• Integrated heating and cooling
• Guarantee no thermal runaway
• Optimize battery capacity and lifetime

Vehicle integration, space and weight optimization:
• Torsional stiffness
• Modularity to accommodate different battery sizes
• Respect volume & allowable dimensions
• Minimize weight at cost target
Battery Enclosures Main Aluminum Parts

**Top protection cover**
- Seals the enclosure and protects passenger compartment from heat / fire
- Stamped aluminum sheet with high formability

**Structural frame and cross members**
- Protects the cells from intrusion in crash
- Most commonly in extruded profiles
- Requires very high strength alloys combined with high ductility

**Cooling plate / thermal management system**
- Ensures stable operating temperature for the cells
- Can be either brazed sheet or extruded profiles. May also be integrated in bottom cover

**Bottom plate / lower protection cover**
- Protects the cells from undercarriage impact, road debris etc.
- Welded extrusion and sheet solutions are both used
- Sheet can be flat or stamped to also act as tray
- Requires high strength / high ductility alloys
Constellium Automotive Body Sheet Alloys

6000-series = Al-Mg-Si-(Cu)
- Heat treatable
- Major automotive alloy family
- Very good cold formability in T4 temper
- Gains strength through paint-bake or PFHT
- Excellent corrosion resistance

5000-series = Al-Mg
- Non-heat treatable
- Very good cold formability in O-temper
- Can be strengthened by cold work in H-temps
- Excellent corrosion resistance

3000-series = Al-Mn
- Non-heat treatable
- Low strength – excellent formability
- Heat exchangers / heat shields

7000-series = Al-Zn-Mg-(Cu)
- Heat treatable – highest strength alloy family
- Currently not in volume automotive use
- Limited cold formability
- Hot stamp + press quenchable
- Can be susceptible to stress corrosion cracking
Bottom Plate Impact resistance

- To evaluate different material, alloy and temper solutions we use an in-house numerical simulation tool backed up by a physical testing protocol.

- We record the force vs displacement for up to 15 mm intrusion in different positions of a test sheet firmly fixed in a frame.

- This allows to determine the equivalent gauge based on absorbed energy and therefore weight saving potential of new grades and solutions.
Bottom Plate Alloy selection

Higher strength alloys allow for significant weight and cost reduction.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alloy</th>
<th>Temper</th>
<th>TYS [MPa]</th>
<th>UTS [MPa]</th>
<th>E-Mod [GPa]</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5754</td>
<td>O-temper</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5182</td>
<td>O-temper</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5754</td>
<td>H24</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6111</td>
<td>T4 + PB</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6111</td>
<td>T6 / PFHT</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7075</td>
<td>T6</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>530</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4xxx</td>
<td>T6/PFHT</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Development</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Current state-of-the-art solution is high strength 6111 in peak aged temper – saves 30% weight vs benchmark 5754 O-temper
- 40% weight reduction is technically feasible with 7075 T6 or with developmental 80 GPa E-modulus / 350 MPa YS 4xxx alloy
Constellium Extruded Automotive Aluminum alloys

Strength and ductility requirements can be met with advanced 6xxx alloys with excellent corrosion resistance, joinability and ease of recycling.

- HSA6™ family are proprietary 6xxx alloys achieving higher strength and better manufacturability than 7xxx series alloys
- HCA6™ family are proprietary high strength 6xxx with high ductility for energy absorption in crash
- Constellium HSA6/HCA6 Aluminium alloys provide Weight Savings of > 20% Versus Conventional Al Alloys
Example Battery Enclosure

Advanced Extrusion Alloy & Design To Provide Cost Effective Light Weight Solutions
Summary and conclusions

- Aluminum as sheet and extruded profiles is the preferred material for BEV body structure, closures and battery enclosures.

- Aluminum battery enclosures or other platform parts typically gives a weight saving of 40% compared to an equivalent steel design.

- Light-weight design allows:
  - Better overall performance = range, acceleration, payload, energy consumption and/or
  - Cost savings at iso-performance by downsizing of battery, motors, structure

- Aluminum is infinitely recyclable with zero loss of properties. At end of life 96% of automotive aluminum content is recycled. Recycling aluminum only requires 5% of the energy needed for primary production.

- North American automotive aluminum contains recycled metal and primary metal manufactured mainly with renewable, hydroelectric power.
Poll #2

What do you think the share of BEV battery enclosures made with aluminum as the main material will be in 2030:

A = 100%
B = 75%
C = 25%
D = 0 %