



Press Release

Koenigsegg selects Zircotec ceramic exhaust coating for reducing underbonnet temperatures

Significantly reduced underbonnet temperatures for CCX high performance car using zirconia-based coating

Koenigsegg's CCX supercar is the latest vehicle to benefit from using Zircotec's ceramic coating for its exhaust manifold. The CCX, Competition Coupe X, delivers incredible performance, dispatching 0-100km/h in 3.2secs with an 806bhp engine helping the car achieve over 395km/h. Installing the bespoke 4700cc engine in a sleek, aerodynamic carbon fibre body means package space is at a premium. The result is a very restricted engine bay with sensitive components and the painted composite parts close to the exhaust. The CCX also incorporates a new exhaust system with catalysts moving nearer to the engine (to improve light-off time) further increasing underbonnet temperatures.

Koenigsegg needed a solution that would dramatically reduce underbonnet temperatures, in order to safeguard electrical components and the composite bodywork. Limited space meant exhaust wrap was infeasible and also unsightly for a highly aesthetic engine bay so the engineers turned to spray coatings in order to achieve a robust and effective solution that would satisfy rigorous OEM quality standards.

Originally developed by the nuclear energy industry and used effectively by Formula One and WRC teams, Zircotec's high temperature plasma-sprayed ceramic coating provides a lightweight, easily packaged and highly durable thermal barrier for all engine ancillaries. When applied to an exhaust system, the Zircotec coating inhibits the radiation of heat from the surface of the material, holding the heat inside. Testing on race cars has shown

reductions in underbonnet temperatures of up to 30°C, proving its validity for the Koenigsegg CCX.

“The Zircotec coating offered us an immediate solution and a substantial improvement over the coating we were already using,” says Koenigsegg’s COO Jeff Stokes. “Plus it has more significantly reduced underbonnet temperatures.” As a niche, performance car manufacturer, the adoption of the Zircotec coating provided other benefits to Koenigsegg. “There was no tooling investment for ordinary heat shields, it is low weight and it needs minimal package space,” adds Stokes.

The Koenigsegg is one of a growing number of high performance and niche vehicle manufacturers that have found Zircotec’s coating to offer durability and performance benefits; keeping heat and energy inside the exhaust improves gas flow and, in forced induction applications, it can even help the turbo spool up more quickly by improving engine responsiveness. “We are absolutely delighted to supply Koenigsegg,” says Zircotec’s sales manager Peter Whyman. “Everybody here is proud to have involvement in such an incredible car.”

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Photographs

Pictures are available electronically from the press agent or can be downloaded from www.autopresspoint.com



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