

# Acknowledgements

This study was carried out at the School of Engineering, Design and Technology, University of Bradford, from 2005 to 2008. I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the following staff and fellow students who helped me through the years.

I am deeply grateful to Professor Kirill V. Horoshenkov and to Professor Hadj Benkreira, who gave me the opportunity to perform exciting research work. My doctoral studies would not have been possible to complete without their substantial support.

I am deeply grateful to Dr Raj Patel, for his valuable technical advice and support. I am also grateful to Dr Mark J. Swift from Armacell for his long term and extensive knowledge of sustainable materials.

Finally I would like to thank all the workshop crew, especially Mr David Steele for helping me set up the extrusion rig and Mr Clive Leeming for making the porosity instrumentation.