

PRESS RELEASE

Bergamo, 24 November 2016

Inno.Pro.Wire, the production of the first manufactured products is ready to start

From theory to praxis: thanks to the cooperation between Maccaferri Industrial Group and RadiciGroup Performance Plastics, a new method for the production of sustainable steel wires will soon be available to the building sector.



A training day dedicated to **LIFE-Inno.Pro.Wire** (<http://www.lifeinnoprowire.eu/>), in order to review the current progress of the project, funded by the European Union and stemming from a partnership between Maccaferri Industrial Group (through its companies Officine Maccaferri SpA and SAMP SpA) and RadiciGroup (through Radici Novacips SpA, headquarters of the Performance Plastics business area).

We remember again that this is a challenge which aims to design an innovative process with a lower environmental impact, for producing extruded steel wires to be used for the realisation of metal net protection and containment structures. The sustainability aspect of the project is the use of **polyamide-based polymers** as a viable alternative to PVC for coating steel wires.

The workshop, organised by Maccaferri Industrial Group and RadiciGroup at the Istituto Chimico Natta in Bergamo, saw the participation, as well as of the students, of **Giuseppe Riva**, director of Plastics Europe Italy, of **Ruggero Targhetta**, President of EURIS srl, and of **Gioia Garavini** of Ecoinnovazione srl.

*“The project, which is now in an advanced phase, has resulted in the choice of **PA6 compound based on recycled polyamide** which guarantees the best cost/benefit relationship – explained Cesare Clausi, Global Sales Manager of RadiciGroup Performance Plastics – Moreover, its use ensures the **best performance in terms of environmental impact**. The excellent technical characteristics of this material allow for a 20% reduction in wire coating thickness and a 30-50% increase in the service life of the final product, the metal gabion. The polyamide also guarantees improved resistance to mechanical damage during the installation and service of the gabions”.*

In particular, Radici Novacips, always committed to sustainability, has made available, to the Inno.Pro.Wire project, the developed skills to assess the environmental impact of products and processes, as well as the reliability of the so-called “primary” data acquired at the own establishments in Chignolo d’Isola and Villa d’Ogna (Bergamo) with a robust and certified method (EPD Environmental Product Declaration) for testing the Product Environmental Footprint (PEF), and environmental label which the European Community promotes in order to raise consumer awareness of the impacts of products. The process of recovering polyamide waste, already equipped with *EPD® S-P-00708* (www.environdec.com), will contribute to provide a solid base of information and data in order to develop the environmental footprint of the product formulated for the Maccaferri's specific application.

The kick-off meeting for the project dates back to October 2014, whilst the conclusion will have to be in the second half of 2017. Nowadays, RadiciGroup has sourced the materials, and in cooperation with Officine Maccaferri all of the assessments and necessary technical tests were already carried out to validate the product and its application. In the coming weeks the mass production of the gabions is expected to begin.

“We can thus state – underlines Maurizio Degli Esposti, Process Industrial Manager at Officine Maccaferri SpA – that thanks to this demonstration industrial project, we are very close to the development of a replicable methodology for the eco-sustainable production of extruded steel wires coated with polymers with a low environmental impact, and to the implementation of a demonstration production line, developed and realised by SAMP SpA, to show the savings in materials and energy, by properly documenting process yield and product performance”.

The main aim of the project is to make available to the building sector **innovative production and processes** which at the same time are **sustainable**, which can then be considered as **Best Available Technique**, and to update referral documents about the best available techniques for the related industrial sector (Ferrous Metal Processing and Polymer Production).

It is also a perfect case history for the students of **“Poliammide di Classe”**, a project co-managed by **RadiciGroup** and the **Istituto Chimico Natta in Bergamo**, which in the 2015-2016 school year involved students in 5 teaching days on Project Management, Polymers, and Expert Life Cycle Analysis.

The LIFE-Inno.Pro.Wire project represents a perfect synthesis for students and a concrete application of what they learnt during this course: a complex planning, the development of a material and of a specific process technology based on the application critical issues, and a European method for the environmental enhancement of the manufactured product. It is also an opportunity to increase the positive role carried out by Europe in terms of orientation towards a more environmentally attentive society (circular economy) and financial support for innovation projects (European funds).



MORE INFO ABOUT LIFE+: www.ec.europa.eu/life

OFFICINE MACCAFERRI- Founded in 1879 and today headed by Alessandro Maccaferri, Officine Maccaferri is a leader in environmental engineering – a pocket-size multinational with 2015 sales revenues of EUR 503 million, 32 plants on 4 different continents, more than 3,000 employees and sales units in over 100 countries. Officine Maccaferri, the ancestral company of the Maccaferri Industrial Group, provides advanced engineering solutions for a variety of applications, from coastal protection to soil reinforcement structures, rockfall protection netting and complete systems for tunnelling. www.maccaferri.com

SAMP - The SAMP Group was founded in 1936 in Bologna, Italy, and is engaged in the mechanical engineering sector. It comprises four companies – Sampsystemi, Samputensili Machine Tools, Samputensili Cutting Tools and Sampingranaggi and has about 900 employees. SAMP specializes in the design and manufacture of systems for the production of wire and cable for telecommunications and low, medium and high voltage lines; tools for gear machining and grinding gears, screws and rotors; and gears and reduction gears for high precision applications. SAMP is present in Europe, Asia and North America. The president of SAMP, a sub-holding of the Maccaferri Industrial Group, is Antonio Maccaferri. The company closed the year 2015 with sales revenues of EUR 120 million. www.sampspa.com

RADICIGROUP- With 2,985 employees, sales revenue of EUR 1,011 million, and a network of production and sales sites located in Europe, North America, South America and Asia, RadiciGroup is one of the world's leading producers of a wide range of chemical intermediates, polyamide polymers, engineering plastics, synthetic fibres and nonwovens. These products are the result of the Group's outstanding chemical know-how and are used in a variety of industrial sectors such as: AUTOMOTIVE – ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS – CONSUMER GOODS – APPAREL – FURNISHINGS – CONSTRUCTION – HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES – SPORT. With its business areas - **Specialty Chemicals, Performance Plastics and Synthetic Fibres & Nonwovens** (Performance Yarn, Comfort Fibres and Extrusion Yarn), RadiciGroup is part of a larger industrial group that also includes textile machinery (ITEMA), energy (GEOGREEN) and hotel businesses (SAN MARCO). www.radicigroup.com

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