
PRESS RELEASE

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Sustainable innovation: RadiciGroup teams up with Officine Maccaferri and SAMP on the LIFE-Inno.Pro.Wire project

*The **LIFE-Inno.Pro.Wire** pilot project, stemming from a partnership between two major Italian multinationals: Maccaferri Industrial Group (through its companies Officine Maccaferri SpA and SAMP SpA) and RadiciGroup (through Radici Novacips SpA), was among the proposals selected for the European Commission's LIFE+ programme, the European Union financial Instrument for the environment.*

***Objective of LIFE-Inno.Pro.Wire:** to design an innovative process with a lower environmental impact for producing extruded steel wire to be used in metal net protection and containment structures.*

LIFE-Inno.Pro.Wire, a sustainable innovation challenge. This all-Italian pilot project, stemming from a partnership between two major Italian industrial multinationals, Maccaferri Industrial Group and RadiciGroup, has been awarded financial support for a period of 3 years by the European Commission's [LIFE+](#) programme, the European financial Instrument for the environment.

The LIFE-Inno.Pro.Wire project aims to design an innovative process with lower environmental impact for producing extruded steel wire to be used in making metal net protection and containment structures. The sustainability aspect of the project is the use of polyamide 6 (PA6 engineering plastics from the **RADILON®** range) as a **viable alternative to PVC** for coating the steel wire.

Indeed, the entire traditional process, in which steel wire is plated with a very thick zinc coating layer and then PVC coated, is an energy hog. The idea put forth by Officine Maccaferri – world leader in the research, design and manufacture of advanced environmental civil engineering solutions – is **the development of a new and innovative production process in which the zinc coating process is minimised**. Polyamide 6 plays a central role in this project, because, compared to PVC, it ensures better technical and environmental performance.

“The call for proposals by the European Union,” said **Claudio Colibri**, *corporate R&D manager of Officine Maccaferri*, “provides an exciting opportunity for companies interested in developing industrial proposals for strategic sectors such as the environment, biodiversity, environmental policies and governance, information and communications. Over the years, RadiciGroup, Officine Maccaferri SpA and SAMP SpA have made environmental sustainability the fundamental development criterion. These companies are going to collaborate by leveraging the strong synergies among their various R&D departments to achieve the ambitious goal of developing a solution with lower environmental impact.”

Cesare Clausi, *Europe business manager of the RadiciGroup Plastics Business Area*, expressed great satisfaction for the collaboration with Maccaferri: “We are proud to be a partner in the LIFE-Inno.Pro.Wire project. The contribution we can make to this project is defined by the approach we take and the competence of our Group on the sustainability front. Our system, which is set up for the internal management of product environmental declarations and for which we have recently obtained EPD Process Certification, and our recent trial testing of PEF methodology allow us to measure the environmental impact of our polyamide in a rigorous manner. This enables us to provide information based on scientifically verifiable and comparable data for the LIFE-Inno.Pro.Wire project as well. Environmental impact and performance are variables that we take into account starting from the initial development stage of our polyamides.”

“Our Radilon® materials will contribute various environmental benefits to LIFE-Inno.Pro.Wire,” Mr. Clausi continued. “Namely, product quality, energy savings in the production process, savings in raw materials and environmental certification. Furthermore, in this project the experimental PEF methodology will be applied to measure and calculate the environmental impact of the end product, the metal gabion, as requested by Maccaferri.”

COMPARED TO PVC, PA6 PROVIDES SUPERIOR MECHANICAL CHARACTERISTICS, which will allow the project to: experiment and minimise the steel zinc-coating process; reduce the coating thickness, and thus use less plastic for equal performance; and, lastly, make the end product more long lasting.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON 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 sales revenues of EUR 474 million, 32 plants on 4 different continents, about 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 three divisions – Sampsystemi, Samputensili and Sampingranaggi and has about 800 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 2013 with sales revenues of EUR 122 million. www.sampspa.com

RADICIGROUP

2013 sales revenues of EUR 1,045 million. Production and sales sites in Europe, North America, South America and Asia. Diversified businesses focusing on chemicals, plastics, synthetic fibres and nonwovens. Know-how. Vertically integrated nylon production. Constant commitment to guaranteeing its customers quality, sustainable innovation and reliability. All this is **RadiciGroup**, a leader in nylon chemicals. RadiciGroup products are used in applications such as: Apparel – Furnishings – Automotive – Consumer goods – Construction – Electrical and electronics – Household appliances – Sport. RadiciGroup, with its Chemicals, Plastics, Synthetic Fibres and Nonwovens Business Areas, is part of a larger industrial group that also includes textile machinery and energy businesses. www.radicigroup.com

PRESS CONTACTS

MACCAFERRI INDUSTRIAL GROUP

Piero Tatafiore
Corporate Communications Manager
Maccaferri Industrial Group
Phone +39 06 68804873
e-mail p.tatafiore@maccaferri.it

Utopia Lab – Communication and Media Relations
Maccaferri Industrial Group
Gaia De Scalzi
Phone + 39 06.4543 9103
Mobile +39 331 6781443
e-mail g.descalzi@utopialab.it

RADICIGROUP

Filippo Servalli
Corporate Marketing&Communication Manager
Phone + 39 035.715411
e-mail filippo.servalli@radicigroup.com

Cristina Bergamini
Ufficio Stampa RadiciGroup
Phone + 39 035.715411
e-mail cristina.bergamini@radicigroup.com