Cem-FIL® AR Glass Reinforcements Help Fibre Net Catch Attention and Revenue

Lightweight, easy-to-handle fiber-reinforced polymer nets reinforcing concrete used to restore historic buildings

Application
- Lightweight easy-to-handle FRP mesh or netting to replace steel in reinforced concrete

Fabrication Process
- Fibers are pre-tensioned and impregnated with epoxy-vinyl ester resin and woven with multiple twisted warp and flat weft strands embedded between warp strands

Reinforcement
- Direct single-end roving
- Cem-FIL® alkali-resistant glass
- 5326 2400 Tex

The area where Fibre Net S.r.l. is headquartered in the northeast of Italy has been inhabited since the Neolithic age some 5,000 years ago. Perhaps living in such an environment prompted the company’s founders to develop composite products for restoring the country’s historic architecture and infrastructure.

After many years of success making pultruded shapes that upgrade aging structures both statically and seismically, the company’s technical team developed another composite product that is now generating increased attention and revenue – fiber-reinforced polymer (FRP) mesh or nets for reinforcing concrete.

The FRP nets are manufactured with continuous Cem-FIL® alkali-resistant (AR) glass fibers from OCV™ Reinforcements. The fibers are pre-tensioned and impregnated with thermosetting epoxy-vinyl ester resin and woven with multiple twisted warp and flat weft strands embedded between warp strands. The strands average about 3 mm (0.12 inches) in width.

In the restoration and salvage of buildings, FRP nets contribute high mechanical strength, chemical resistance and thermal insulation. They are light and thin enough to enable fast, easy and low-cost installation.

“At the moment, Fibre Net is experiencing a strong growth trend, both in terms of visibility and in terms of turnover,” said General Manager Cecilia Zampa.
“This is the result of considerable research and innovation in composite materials for the building sector, and an outcome of our strong activity in ‘training the market’ – making the market more aware of composites in the building sector,” she explained.

Zampa said the company is benefiting from the unique aspects of the mesh product.

“It is similar to traditional consolidating techniques done up to now with steel meshes, but with a lighter and thinner product, FRP mesh is easy to move. It has good properties and meets the technical standards for concrete construction in NTC 14.01.2008.”

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For more about Fibre Net, visit www.fibrenet.it.

For more about Cem-FIL® AR glass fibers, visit www.ocvreinforcements.com/CemFIL.