

News release
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DEPESTELE Group and FIBROLINE enter a strategic partnership agreement to develop dry impregnated flax fiber tapes

HIGH PERFORMANCES ASSOCIATED TO A REDUCED ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT



DEPESTELE Group, leading manufacturer of natural fibers for composite reinforcement and FIBROLINE, global leader in dry powder impregnation solutions, entered into a strategic partnership for the development of dry impregnated natural fiber tapes. This collaboration will combine DEPESTELE Group's market expertise for flax fiber reinforcements, with an eco-friendly manufacturing process in line with both partners' environmental and social policy.

"This technology will allow us to develop a new range of products, while implementing a green impregnation solution avoiding the use of solvent and reducing energy consumption. In addition to this lowered environmental impact, the optimal powder distribution of the resin will lead to high-performance materials with a very limited level of porosities, allowing to address the most demanding markets" says Davy DURIATTI, R&D director for DEPESTELE Group.

AN IMPORTANT STEP FOR THE "Y-PREG" MARKET PENETRATION

Following the market introduction in 2021 of the FIBROLINE Y-Preg technology for technical yarn applications, composite tape impregnation was the logical next phase. "This first application for natural fiber tape manufacturing is a very important step for the market penetration of our new solution, and our innovation team is already working actively to extend the use of our technology to complementary fiber reinforcements such as glass, ceramic or aramid fibers" says Jérôme VILLE, FIBROLINE's CEO.

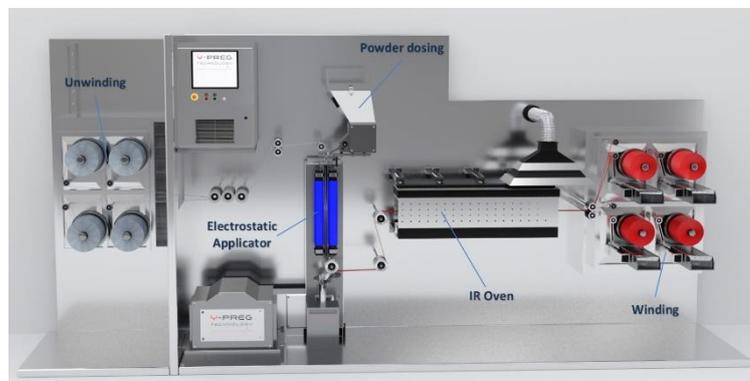
As for all the other technologies of the FIBROLINE portfolio, the Y-Preg solution can either be installed into an existing production line, or be part of a new manufacturing line. "The flexibility and adaptability of the process is a key for our partners, willing to skip easily from one resin to another one, with an improved machine uptime. This was an important parameter for DEPESTELE Group, already thinking ahead to the large-scale production" underlines Sofien BOUZOUITA, Innovation manager and in charge of the composite developments for FIBROLINE.

ABOUT DEPESTELE

Europe's leading private flax producer, the DEPESTELE Group operates approximately 12000 ha of plains in Normandy and values the entire straw by obtaining various products: long fiber, short fiber, shives and seeds. An integrated processing unit allows it to produce rovings and woven reinforcements using "engineering technical fibres" grown following a dedicated culture. These semi-finished products can also be pre-impregnated with thermoplastic or thermoset polymers. Depestele also provides specific physicochemical treatments that greatly improve the impregnation capability and the mechanical performances of its semi-finished products, as well as accurate finite elements simulations for the design of composite parts. In addition, a wide range of flax fibers reinforced compounds has been developed for the plastics industry.

ABOUT FIBROLINE

Fibroline is a technology and engineering company based in France, which developed and patented revolutionary dry powder impregnation technologies. The company installed its innovation center near Lyon in order to develop products with its partners and validate all technical characteristics, prior to technology transfer at industrial scale.



The FIBROLINE solutions have a wide range of applications, from technical textiles to medical, hygiene or filtration, and several products are running industrially or currently in development step by the Fibroline innovation teams.

Thanks to a unique know-how and technology portfolio, FIBROLINE is able to develop tailor-made solutions for its partners, on the product side, as well as on the technological side. All those solutions are protected by a strong and worldwide patent portfolio.

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