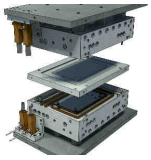
Press Release *Le Bourget du Lac, 29 March 2010*

SPORTS & LEISURE: ROCTOOL PRESENTS 3iTECH®, A SOLUTION THAT REDUCES THE PRODUCTION COSTS

3iTech® RAISES THE BARRIERS FOR CARBON FIBRE MOULDING



The 3iTech® technology is a process of heating the mould by electromagnetic induction. *« The basic principle of 3iTech®, is that the inductors are integrated inside the mold at manufacturing time in order to match the shape of the part. »* explains Alexandre Guichard, RocTool's CEO

The induction is generated from inside the mould and no electrical current circulates on the surface, this allows the conductive molding of materials such as carbon fibre. This technology allows a homogenous heating at the tool surface, all whilst improving the heating time and energy needed». 3iTech® completes the RocTool range who already have Cage System® for plastic injection.

3iTech®, is a 3D network of « super heating cartridges» which are placed differently depending on the process required (RTM, thermo compression, plastic injection, vacuum formed and hollow part production), the temperatures to achieve (differs depending on the material to be used), heating time, holding time and the shape and complexity of the part to be produced.

To be able to heat a mould up to 400°C in several m inutes or to 120°C in several seconds, makes the mass production of carbon composite parts in a cycle time which has never previously been reached. Further to that by removing the constraints of inertia state, RocTool managed to **create "smarter" heating tools**, to separate the heating of a fixed part to a moving one, or to locally heat the tool to a chosen temperature level……

MORE FLEXIBILITY FOR SPORTS & LEISURE BUSINESSES

This technology addresses particularly Sports and Leisure. Firstly because of the **short cycle time, excellent surface quality for the parts produced, and more flexibility** in the use of the moulds in comparison to what is in being used on the markets currently.

"In the Sports and Leisure industry, the businesses need to offer their products without any faults in the appearance and be able to offer the general public several available sizes in the same range. The number of mould references is important. With 3iTech®, the mould is hot for only one minute after being placed on the press, which makes it much flexible to use! 3iTech® dramatically reduces the cycle time and therefore the production costs." explains Alexandre Guichard

Regarding tube and hollow part production, 3iTech® is particularly adapted to bike wheels, baseball bats, tennis rackets, hockey sticks or golf clubs for example. The technology equally answers the constraints of **shell part production**, notably back pack shells, soles of shoes, skis etc*….."at present we are making complex shapes out of thermoplastic composites or thermoset charged carbon fibre, all within the cycle time of less than 3 minutes. The production, for example, of hockey sticks or handlebars for bikes in the reduced cycle time extraordinarily lowers the cost of production and offers well known brands new perspectives: maintaining their production in their factories and protecting their innovations"* adds Alexandre Guichard

RocTool invites you to their stand M26 at JEC COMPOSITES SHOW 2010
13-14-15 April 2010 at Paris Porte de Versailles
An area dedicated to Sports & Leisure will be on display,
parts will include tubes and shells in numerous materials.

For more information: www.roctool.com

More about RocTool

*Since its creation in 2000, RocTool develops innovative processes for rapid material molding. Winner on two occasions of the JEC Composites Awards, the company has sold twenty patented licenses of its induction heating technology, the **Cage System®**, predominantly for Composite applications of medium to large series. The **Cage System®** began production in 2009 in Plastic Injection. **3iTech®** was launched in October 2009, destined to the transformation of composites and carbon fibre. **RocTool** was introduced onto the Stock Market at the beginning of 2008, on "Nyse Euronext Marché Libre" in Paris. RocTool's headquarters and R&D centre are situated at Savoie Technolac in Le Bourget du Lac (France) and three sales offices, one in Atlanta (USA) one in Tokyo (JAPAN) and the other in Taiwan. RocTool also has a technical centre in India, trials and demonstration platforms in France, Germany, Japan and USA.*

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