

ROCTOOL INTENSIFIES ITS R&D AND FILES 5 NEW PATENTS

RocTool has recently filed 5 patents, which concern the improvement of the Cage System® (its innovative procedure of rapidly moulding composites by induction) as well as other new techniques for rapidly moulding composites and plastics. In 2006, the company began a new innovative program, with an investment of 1 300 000€ (of which 500 000€ is in partnership with Oséo Anvar) for the further development of the Cage System® as well as other alternative solutions for inductive heating. "The objective of this program is twofold: to better optimise the time cycle and production rate and continue to progress in the complexity of the forms produced" indicated José Feigenblum, R&D Director.

ROCTOOL: A PORTFOLIO OF PATENTS UNIQUE IN THE WORLD

"The composite industry has progressed a lot recently, in particular in the range of primary materials used, however it remains held back by long moulding processes. Our strategy is the development of new techniques and intellectual property for new procedures allowing for the production of composite or plastic parts in a reduced time cycle. We are the holders of a portfolio of patents unique in the world, which is going to increase in 2006 and 2007", indicated Matt Boulanger, Business Development Manager.

A POSITIVE END OF YEAR RESULT

In 2005, RocTool had a turnover of 2.3 million euros (of which 90% was through export) with a result of 1 million euros. "2006 should see a consolidation of the turnover and the beginning of big new projects in the automotive and industrial sector", stated Matt Boulanger.

ROCTOOL SETS ITS GOALS

In 2006, RocTool is going even further in its will to progress. "Our ambition: make RocTool the reference in the area of the rapid transformation of composites and plastics", declared Alex Guichard, CEO of RocTool. "We have raised a large capital base, formed a great team with highly specialised experts and made spectacular technological progress. Only one year ago, the biggest part that we had made with our process was a shoe sole. Each month we have increased in size and complexity to the point where we are now moulding parts of more than one meter. In addition, we are now engaged with most of the world leaders in the field: material, automotive and industrial manufacturers, who are investing in our technology so that they can accelerate the moulding of their thermoset or thermoplastic parts, in temperatures ranging from 80° to 350°C."

THE ROCTOOL "MINI FACTORY" AT THE JEC COMPOSITES SHOW 2006

RocTool has installed a "mini factory" on its stand (L28 – Hall 1) in order to demonstrate its Cage System® technology. It comprises of a 100 tonne press linked to a 100KVA generator and a cooling system. For the first time, a progressive U form with a length of around 70cm will be moulded "live" on the stand, integrating different glass and carbon materials. The demonstration (about one each hour) will be commented in English and French and retransmitted onto 5 screens placed around the stand.

RocTool has also invited two of its suppliers to present on its stand at the JEC Composites Show 2006:

- EFD Induction (Seyssinet – 38 France) which supplied the 100KW electro-magnetic generator for the JEC Composites Show 2006 and who is collaborating with RocTool in the creation of a generator specifically adapted to the Cage System®. RocTool will recommend this material for the use of its clients once developed.
- Cogémoule (Bellignat – 01 France) which has made the mould equipped with the Cage System® presented at the JEC Composites Show 2006. RocTool began its collaboration with Cogémoule in 2005 in order to improve its level of industrialisation and precision of its tools.

Supported since its creation in 2000 by its private and institutional shareholders, RocTool develops innovative processes and sells licences for the use of its patents. The company is currently made up of 15 employees. It is situated in Savoie Technolac, Bourget du Lac (France) and also has an office in Atlanta (USA). RocTool has twice been awarded the JEC Composite Award, once in 2001 and again in 2005.

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