Wind Turbine Blade Manufacture 2019 9-11 December, Germany



Volume opportunities for remanufacturing GFRP-waste; test results & applications by Markku Vilkki, CEO, Conenor Ltd





ONGELMA-JÄTETTÄ

Tuulivoimaloiden lapojen uusiokäyttö aiheuttaa päänvaivaa. Ratkaisu saattaa löytyä pienestä suomalaisverstaasta

Hasilte

랆

40 miljoonaa tonnia ongelmajätettä ylhäältä: Maailma hukkuu tuulivoiman lapoihin - katkaisu vei löytyä pienestä suemalaisverstaasta 👩 12:00

CITUAAJELE

13100

40 miljoonaa tonnia ongelmajätettä ylhäältä: Maailma hukkuu tuulivoiman lapoihin - Ratkaisu voi löytyä pienestä suomalaisverstaasta



Näin "kiinanyssäköiden" toimitukset kallistuvat ensi vuonna.



Head line news at Tekniikka&Talous 3.12.2019 Internet version

Risto Siilasmaa lähtee Nokian hallituksesta - Sari Baldaufista seuraaja puheenjohtajana.

Näin Nokian Siilasmaa hehkutti terveysteknologiaa: "260 miljardin markkina" - nyt

harkinnassa luopuminen

Uusimmat

19100

He ovat vahvimmilla Suomen seuraavaksi pääministeriksi - "olen vasemmistolainen sosialidemokraatti"

15:25 BLOCTANENEN

15.2.2018 124448

Pääministeri Rinne jätti eronpyyntönsä -Presidentti hyväksyi eron









12183 PEOPIE

ECOBULK

Contents

- H2020 ECOBULK-project <u>www.ecobulk.eu</u>
- Recycling of wind turbine blades <u>is A MUST</u>
- Recycling options for GFRP-waste
- Thermoplastic composites reinforced with GFRP-waste;
 - materials & formulations
 - processing
 - test results
- Applications
- what next...



H2020-project ECOBULK

www.ecobulk.eu



- 2017 2021
- 28 beneficiaries
- 12,2 M€
- Automotive
- Furniture
- Construction





Mechanical re-manufacturing of GFRP-waste as reinforcement in circular thermoplastic composite materials and extruded products are being demonstrated in large scale in ;

- Finland
 - UK

Jordan

- France
- Portugal



Pakistan

H2020-project ECOBULK



• Ecobulk is not a wind turbine blade recycling project...BUT

Recycling GFRP-waste – and especially when taken from EoL blades – has become the driver and most innovative part of Ecobulk developing and demonstrating circularity and material efficiency in constructions





Project Number: 73045



Conflict of strategies

<u>Plastics vs. Renewable Energy</u> <u>Discrepancy in wind...unless blades become recycled</u>



Zu geringe Recyclingkapazitäten für Rückbau von Windenergieanlagen UBA-Studie betrachtet Umweltaspekte des Recyclings alter Windenergieanlagen https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/zu-geringerecyclingkapazitaeten-fuer-rueckbau-von

year 2050 total global waste volume ~43 Mton/a



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Manufacturing blades



The annual wind power capacity installed in Europe in 2016 attained 12.5 GW, bringing the use of FRP composites in blades to 150.000 - 186.000 tonnes, a threefold increase when compared to the 2000 figures. (WindEurope 2017)

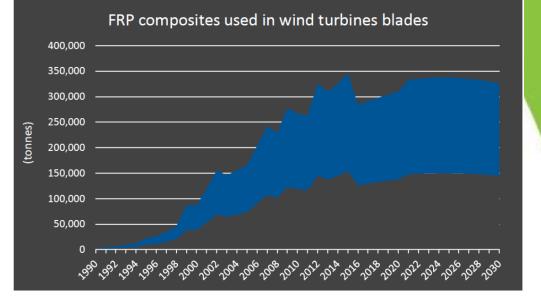


Figure 2. Annual use of FRP composites in wind turbine blades (WindEurope 2015)



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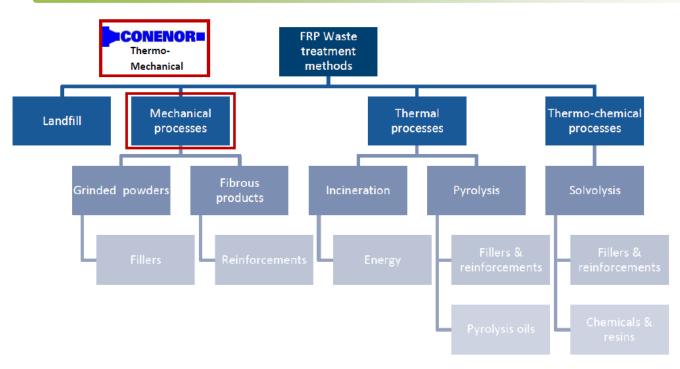


- SME since1995 developing innovative extrusion solutions
- Providing outsourced R&D services in composites to industrial clients
- Participation recently in 4 EU-funded major R&D-projects
- Not a manufacturer but technology developer & provider
- Inventor of unique conical extruder CONEX[®]
- Inventor of thermo-mechanical process to utilize GFRP-waste as reinforcement in thermoplastic composites (*patents pending*)





FRP-waste treatment methods



FRP composite waste treatment methods (adapted from Sacchi 2014¹² Composites UK 2016¹³; Skrifvars 2015¹⁴)



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Blade waste downsized







Processing into thermoplastics

Processing in 3 main steps

- 1) Dowsizing blades by cutting and shredding including metal separation (by third parties)
- 2) Production of material formulations by hot mixing ;
 - agglomerates for extrusion
 - granules for injection moulding and other
- 3) Extrusion or injection moulding or other
- ✓ Both recycled and virging thermoplastics (PE,PP) can be used
- \checkmark Total recycled and waste material content can be >90%-w.
- ✓ Circular material can be recycled again several times
- ✓ If GFRP-price zero \rightarrow cost of new raw material ~ 500 EUR/tonne





Products with GFRP-waste



- I) Outdoor Furniture
- II) Building & Construction

Conenor composite components available ;

N.o	Name	Dimensions	ns Layers		Notes	
			<u>single</u> <u>r</u>	<u>nulti</u>		
1	Solid Plank R	120x30mm	х	х	round corners	
2	Solid Plank S	120x30mm	х	х	sharp corners	
3	Solid Plank F-F	140x30mm	х	х	female-female edges	
4	Hollow Board	120x28mm	х	х		
5	Hollow Board F-F	140x28mm	х	х	female-female edges	
6	Solid Panel 5	390x5mm	х		straigth edges	
7	Solid Panel 10	390x10mm	х		straigth edges	
8	Solid Panel 10B	390x10mm	х		bevelled shiplap edges	
9	Hollow Pillar 5	125x125mm	х	х	5mm wall	
10	Hollow Pillar 10	125x125mm	х	х	10mm wall	
11	Hollow Pillar 15	125x125mm	х	х	15mm wall	
+	Feature "Fire Retardancy"		x	x	EN Class B	





www.ecobulk.e

core material with end of life Epp

Product Prototypes

Extruded Composites containing FRP-waste

Outdoor Furniture & Construction



Product test samples sent to CNR-Italy

Components:



✓ solid multilayer planks 120x30mm with Re-Ma core containing FRP-waste (from WTB-EoL and Exel Composites' manufacturing), weigth 3,9kg/m

✓ panels 390x10mm from Re-Ma (FRP-waste from WTB-EoL and Exel Composites' manufacturing), weigth 4,5kg/m

 ✓ panels 390x10mm (FRP-waste from WTB-EoL and Exel Composites' manufacturing)

 \checkmark hollow pillars 125x125mm with 10mm wall both in recycled HDPE \rightarrow PEXr and PP and 15mm in PP



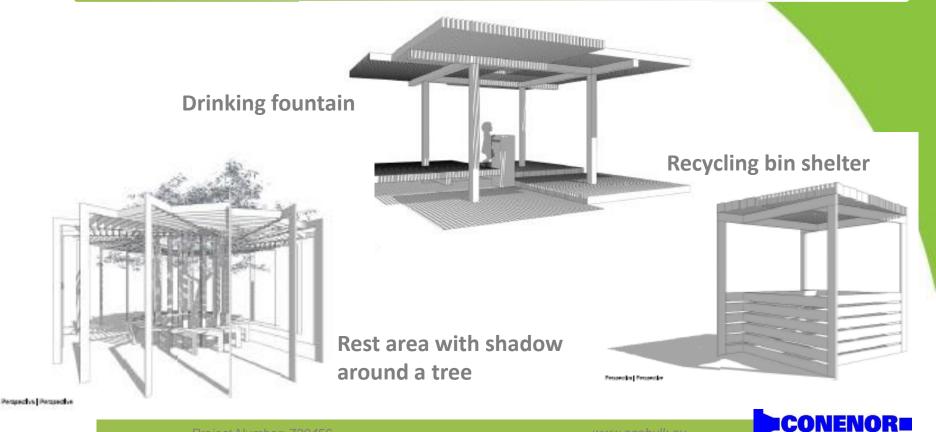
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Demos Lipor - Portugal





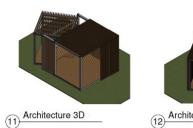
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Demos UK (3 Universities)





- Warwick
- Cranfield
- Coventry









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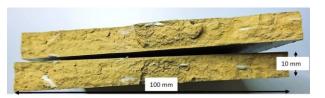
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Materials in panel tests

COMPOSITE PANEL SAMPLE MATERIAL FORMULATIONS (%-w.)

MATERIAL	<u>SERIE 1</u> <u>PE</u>	SERIE 2 ½-rema	<u>rPP</u>	<u>rPP+</u>
EoL –WTB	30	30 + 2,5 rGF	35	40
POLYMER	30 virg. biobased	30 rec.	50 rec. (incl. talc)	36 rec.+ 10 virg.
COUPLING AGENT	2,5	3	3	2,5
COMPATIBILIZER	2	<u>no</u>	<u>no</u>	<u>no</u>
WOOD WASTE	31	30	5	4,4
PROCESSING AID + PIGMENTS	4,5	4,5	4 + 3	4 + 3,1





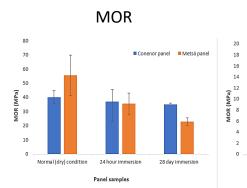


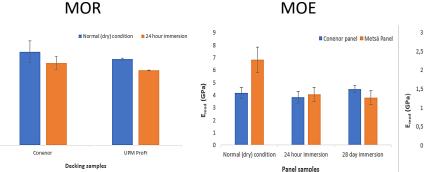
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Comparing products



Master thesis y Mr. Ramji Pandey at University of Eastern Finland (UEF) Panels; Serie 1 samples



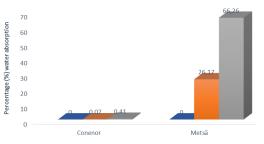


MOE Normal (dry) condition = 28 day immersion 28 day immersion UPM ProEI

Main outcome:

 \checkmark Ecobulk hollow boards (140x28mm) with FRP-waste **are** stronger and stiffer vs. quality commercial WPC decking boards in dry as well as wet conditions

 \checkmark Ecobulk composite panels 390x10mm with FRP-waste **become** stronger and stiffer vs. quality commercial plywood panels when getting into contact with water (EN-test method)



Deck samples

Conenor and Metsä panels in different condition

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Panel flexural testing ISO 178





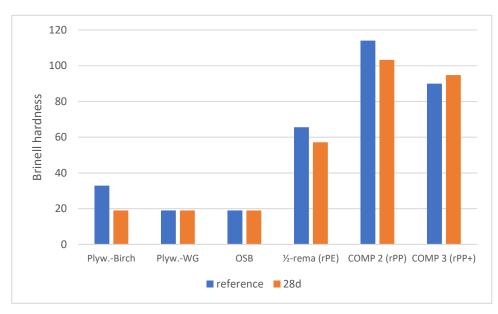
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Brinell hardness



By test lab Muovipoli Oy, Finland

Serie 2 samples

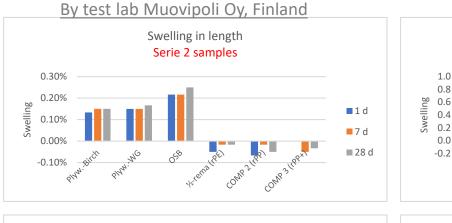


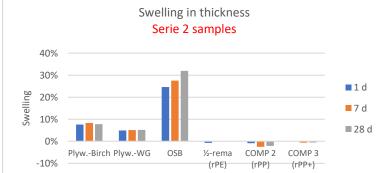


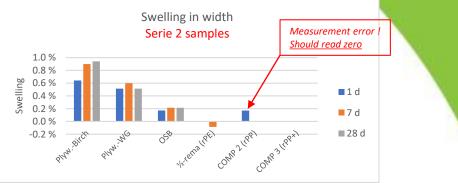
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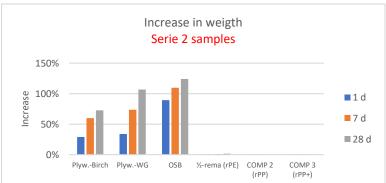


Swelling and water absorption









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Panels in moist conditions



- Wooden panels absorb moisture which causes loss of mechanical properties, swelling and change of dimensions, promote growth of microbes and together with release of formaldehyde result poor air quality in buildings – and are not fire retardant.
- Recycled composite panels do not absorb moisture and retain original properties, do not promote growth of microbes and are formaldehyde free and fire retardant !
- → Composite panels outperform wooden panels, both plywood and OSB, in moist conditions and offer a very lucrative product application worldwide where to utilize GFRP-waste







Composite railway crossties

called also "sleepers"; see presentation <u>http://www.conenor.com/s/Conenor_Composite-Railway-Crossties-j4ej.pptx</u>

Ideal volume application for GFRP-waste in recycled composites

- The most common composite sleeper material, Type-1 sleepers, made of consumer plastics without reinforcements offer a range of benefits including ease of drill and cut, good durability, consumption of waste materials, reasonable price, and tough.
- However, it suffers from low strength and stiffness, limited design flexibility, temperature and creep sensitivity, and low resistance to fire.
- → Type-1 sleepers can be made much stronger and stiffer by extrusion method while adding GFRP-waste as reinforcement in consumer plastics

Indian Railways to use 'green' composite sleepers

"Aiming to become more eco-friendly, Indian Railways has decided replace wooden sleepers with composite sleepers that are not only lighter but also stronger."

see news from 2018;

https://www.zeebiz.com/india/news-indian-railways-to-use-green-composite-sleepers-67086







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What next ... if anything



- Conenor has developed and proven a new proprietary thermo-mechanical process technique to utilize GFRP-waste as reinforcement in thermoplastic composites
- Ecobulk-project will demonstrate and assess in large scale applications how to construct e.g. shelters, benches and cabins from extruded composites from the new circular raw materials and present business models for the market
- So what...world will not change unless You take the lead and make it happen !
- The <u>KEY is investments</u> in ;
 - Downsizing facilities locally nearby the wind farms
 - Facilities in producing new circular raw materials utilizing GFRP-waste
 - Facilities in producing new circular products utilizing GFRP-waste (extrusion, inj.m., etc.)
- Supporting activities required in marketing and sales promotion, R&D new products and applications with construction companies to establish succesful value chains
- Product standardization and approvals



Thank You !



Any questions?

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