GR NEWS

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Owens Corning and Gjenkraft join to accelerate the circularity of composites

The Norwegian company specialising in thermochemical recycling has just announced the signing of a Letter of Intent (LOI) with composite materials specialist Owens Corning. This collaboration, signed during the JEC Forum Central Europe, aims to develop circular industrial solutions for recycling composite waste. It comes as Gjenkraft launches its first commercial plant in Høyanger (Norway), dedicated to recycling wind turbine blades.

The American building materials and composite solutions group Owens Corning and the Norwegian company Gjenkraft AS, which specialises in recycling composite waste through thermolysis, have formalised the signing of a Letter of Intent (LOI). The agreement, signed at the JEC Forum Central Europe, aims to integrate recycled glass fibres from Gjenkraft's process into Owens Corning's glass reinforcements. This joint effort will close the loop by reusing production waste to create new composite products, thereby reducing the use of virgin materials and the amount of waste sent to landfill.

Beyond material reuse, the two companies aim to industrialise thermolysis technology to make it more competitive and efficient on a large scale, and to build complete circular chains integrating the collection, recycling and reintegration of composites throughout their life cycle.

“Our advanced recycling approach, using thermolysis, is transforming how composite waste can be managed, converting it into valuable secondary raw materials for industry,” said Arvid Lønne, co-founder of Gjenkraft AS. “Collaborating with Owens Corning is a key step forward in demonstrating that recycled composite materials can be reintegrated into a variety of products. It gives us the opportunity to scale up our technology and make a meaningful sustainability impact across many industries.”

For Chris Skinner, vice president of strategic marketing and R&D for Owens Corning’s glass reinforcements business, “by incorporating recovered and recycled glass fiber into composites materials, we can demonstrate the real-world circularity of composites. This enables us to provide our customers with the solutions they need to meet growing regulatory and consumer demands for recycled content.”

Launch of the first plant

This partnership comes as Gjenkraft inaugurates its first commercial plant in Høyanger, in the Norwegian county of Vestland. This facility has an annual capacity of 2,800 tonnes of composite waste processed, mainly from end-of-life wind turbine blades. It marks the transition from the development phase to industrial production. Thanks to NOK 60 million (approximately €5 million and $6 million) in funding from European Horizon funds (REFRESH project), Innovation Norway and regional investors, Gjenkraft plans to reach a capacity of 100,000 tonnes per year across several European sites by 2035.

The technology developed by Gjenkraft is based on a thermolysis process that breaks down composite waste into recyclable glass and carbon fibres, oils, gases and metals. This process recovers nearly 100% of the components, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with incineration and eliminating the landfilling of composite waste. The integration of these secondary materials into Owens Corning’s production lines paves the way for composites with recycled content that are more sustainable and aligned with European environmental objectives.

Photo: Chris Skinner and Arvid Lønne during the JEC Forum Central Europe in Krakow, Poland – Gjenkraft.

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