

Taking a Leadership Role in BFRP Market

By Richard Krolewski
CEO, Basanite Industries LLC

There has been great progress since our last Outlook five weeks ago. After eight months of assembling the team and equipment to manufacture world-class engineered basalt fiber-reinforced polymers, we are on the cusp of production. All permitting has been approved by the City of Pompano Beach and we are getting ready to go to market with our engineered BFRP product lines.

Launching a relatively new technology into an established marketplace is a daunting task by comparison. It is much more complicated than opening up a storefront and expecting to sell material. It takes solid understanding of the environment, strong relationships with industry experts, and leaders who recognize the importance of adopting new technology to move an industry forward.

It is vital to have highly respected experts like the Honorable Greg Nadeau, former FHWA administrator; Greg Cline, P.E., recently retired subject matter expert for FAA and NAVFAC; and 32-year precast industry veteran Kelly Patterson, P.E. on Basanite Industries' Board of Directors. Their expertise has been invaluable during this start-up period. And I will continue to rely on their counsel as we enter the marketplace.

Our BFRP products are engineered to replace steel, which has been the go-to reinforcement in the concrete industry in the era of modern construction. It takes strong relationships and trust to gain acceptance for a revolutionary new product like BFRP, but the benefits of longer-lasting, non-corrosive concrete structures cannot be denied. The upside potential is tremendous in terms of

longevity, sustainability and taxpayer savings. The strong relationships I have established with precast producers, DOT engineers, FHWA officials and many state and local municipal materials engineers are critical as we move forward.

I am building partnerships in all those arenas and working with the industry to reverse engineer products to incorporate BFRP. We are positioning Basanite Industries to be the absolute leader in promoting the use of composite-based reinforcement. And we're starting close to home. Mayor Rex Hardin of Pompano Beach recently visited our plant. We are working with his office to become a strong partner with the City.

Last week, I attended the International Accelerated Bridge Construction Conference in Miami. It was evident that there is much frustration among bridge engineers about our failing infrastructure, and there is a willingness to look at composite reinforcement alternatives to build longer-lasting bridges.

I am working with a bridge contractor now on supplying material for the first fully composite bridge manufactured in the U.S. This is just one example of the innovation and commitment that will move the next generation of infrastructure in the direction of modern, sustainable, non-corrosive concrete structures. It is an exciting time to be in this industry and we expect big things ahead.



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