

## We have the cure for corroding concrete

**By Richard Krolewski**

CEO, Basanite Industries LLC

One of our key initiatives in building the market for fiber-reinforced polymers (FRP) and basalt fiber-reinforced polymers (BFRP) is working with government agencies at all levels to promote the benefits of non-corrosive reinforcement.

One thing I have learned in advocating for FRP and BFRP is that the experts at these agencies are serious about finding solutions to what [a recent article](#) in *The Economist* referred to as “concrete cancer,” or the destruction of concrete from the spread of rusting steel throughout the interior of the concrete structure.

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*The Economist* touted a “potentially ground-breaking” approach to bridge construction being tested in Australia. Engineers there testing carbon fiber and glass fiber rebar along with “low-carbon geopolymer concrete” blended with fly-ash and other cement alternatives. The goal of this type of research is to create low-carbon-footprint, sustainable, 100-year-lifecycle structures to replace failing infrastructure. That’s the future, and we plan to be a big part of it.

The fact that FRP and BFRP compare quite favorably to other forms of non-corrosive reinforcement mentioned in *The Economist* article will be borne out by testing and research. We are encouraging that research and will support it at every opportunity.

Federal agencies, DOTs, and state and local municipalities have the public trust to uphold and they are necessarily cautious in bringing innovative new materials into their specifications.

Over the last 17 years, I have been working with DOTs in nearly every state, and talking regularly with materials engineers at the state and federal level. Lately, there is a common thread running through the conversations I’m having with these specifiers: We need to do something. We can’t afford to continue building the same way and prematurely replacing failing infrastructure.



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We have the cure for corroding concrete. It’s non-corrosive reinforcement. That’s why I am personally committed to creating a domestically manufactured BFRP product that will have solid QA/QC testing behind it and will serve the interests of engineers in designing longer-lasting structures.

In addition to working on the regulatory front, we are consulting with some major precast concrete manufacturers and helping them reverse engineer products for BFRP.

All this is happening in the background as we make the final preparations to begin production. This is an exciting time in the industry and there will be much to talk about in the coming months.

