



CRC for Advanced Composite Structures and FireShield®

Regina Glass Fibre Pty Ltd have launched a full scale manufacturing facility in Ballarat to produce, under licence from CRC for Advanced Composite Structures (CRC-ACS), a fire-retardant surfacing product known as FireShield®.

This unique tissue product, originally developed to meet aerospace industry fire standards, provides capabilities for composite structures to withstand fire attack by simply integrating the FireShield product on the composite surface.

'This is a real Australian technology success story,' said Professor Murray Scott, CEO of CRC-ACS, after pushing the start button to launch the new production facility in September 2009.

Regina Glass Fibre teamed up with CRC-ACS in 2006 to develop this revolutionary fire retardant material and, after a concerted research and development effort, the first orders have been secured for the FireShield® product line.

Australia's leading fibreglass roofing sheet manufacturer, Ampelite Australia Pty Ltd, is employing FireShield® for its glass-reinforced polyester and roofing products.

FireShield® is expected to become the material standard in ground transportation and maritime industries. Regina

is currently pitching the product at makers of mass transit vehicles such as trains and trams.

Managing Director Arthur Rendell said, 'The sky is the limit. The potential is absolutely massive. It's a unique product and we have a world exclusive licence to make it.'

Regina FireShield can be used in most manufacturing techniques for composites, including pultrusion, filament winding and liquid moulding amongst other methods. By producing a well-bonded, charred layer on the surface of the product when exposed to flame, FireShield insulates the product and inhibits the passage of oxygen, thereby smothering the flame. Furthermore, by placing the low smoke layer at the surface of composites parts, the environmental problems caused by the use of halogenated systems are avoided.

Established in 1963, Regina is an independently owned and operated Australian business which produces high quality, standards compliant products using the world's latest glass and fibre technologies.

More information about the CRC for Advanced Composite Structures is available from www.crc-acs.com.au



FireShield® is an example of Australian SMEs benefiting from collaborative research

Tests show the effectiveness of FireShield®