

## Superior Performance, Continuing Conversion Mark Owens Corning Advantex® Glass Anniversary

**PARIS, 1 April, 2003** – Beginning its seventh year in the market, Owens Corning Advantex® glass fibers are producing all the benefits expected and more, and conversion to the glass formula at the company's reinforcement plants now exceeds 70 percent of total capacity.

Introduced in January 1997, *Advantex* glass was developed as a boron-free E glass possessing significantly improved resistance to corrosion. *Advantex* meets the ASTM D578 standard for both corrosion-resistant E-CR glass and traditional E glass.

"*Advantex* glass fibers are doing everything we expected them to do and more," said Gary Nieman, vice president and general manager, Type 30® Single End Roving/Continuous Roving product lines. *Type 30* single end roving is a product largely made today at Owens Corning with *Advantex* glass. "We expected superior performance in certain applications, especially in the construction and infrastructure markets where corrosion resistance is critically important in such products as pipe, underground storage tanks, utility poles and bridges. But the range of improved performance is much broader than we had anticipated."

When first introduced, *Advantex* was expected to provide superior corrosion resistance in acidic environments. That benefit was confirmed with field use data comparing the acid resistance of *Advantex* glass to that of traditional E glass indicating that *Advantex* provides significantly improved resistance to the corrosive effects of acidic environments.

But field experience also shows that the product performs well in any aqueous environment, including water and alkaline solutions.

"In all aqueous environments tested to date, the *Advantex* glass reinforced composite materials have provided better corrosion-resistant performance than similar materials reinforced with traditional E glass," said Wisdom Dzotsi, global product manager for *Type 30* single end roving.

*Advantex* glass products also have a higher softening-point temperature than traditional E glass – an advantage for some applications.

Another important benefit of *Advantex* glass is the common technology platform it provides, enabling customers to specify the same product anywhere in the world. In the near future, Owens Corning expects to convert all of its glass reinforcement production to the *Advantex* platform.

Starting with the glass reinforcement plant in Guelph, Ontario, Canada, Owens Corning steadily converted additional facilities in L'Ardoise, France; Birkeland, Norway; Rio Claro, Brazil; Battice, Belgium, and one furnace in Amarillo, Texas. The company's plant in Taloja, India, started up with *Advantex* formula glass. The remaining Owens Corning plants to be converted are in Anderson, South Carolina, and Kimchon, Korea.

"The conversion has been gradual because we typically try to tie the conversion in with a furnace rebuild," said Dzotsi. "We also want to work with customers

receiving product from each plant to help them adjust to the new formula and obtain the maximum benefit from the product.”

In addition to providing superior performance for customers, the new boron-free glass process minimizes air pollutants at the source – during the manufacturing process – helping the company meet increasingly strict environmental regulations without relying on control devices that add cost with no benefit for the customer. *Advantex* glass fiber offers the same recycling opportunities available with traditional E glass. The product’s environmental impact is significantly less from reducing boron mining and all the way through manufacturing.

“The successful introduction of *Advantex* glass fiber marks another industry milestone in the Owens Corning tradition of innovation,” added Dzotsi.

Owens Corning is a world leader in building materials systems and composite solutions. Founded in 1938, the company had sales of \$4.9 billion in 2002 and employs approximately 19,000 people worldwide. Additional information is available at the Owens Corning website: [www.owenscorning.com](http://www.owenscorning.com)