

Take Risk Out...Put **Advantex®** Glass In



## Owens Corning OptiSpray™ Rovings a Winning Solution for Regal Boats

Designed for spray-up processes in a variety of applications including spas, swimming pools, transportation, and marine, Owens Corning released its OptiSpray™ Solutions rovings in September 2012. OptiSpray™ Solutions provide optimum wetting for great surface quality and strong mechanical properties in a finished product. This family of products is made with Owens Corning's patented Advantex® glass fiber, which combines the electrical and mechanical properties of traditional E-glass with the corrosion resistance of EC-R glass (Fig. 1).

When selecting the glass roving suitable for a particular application, wet-out characteristics are critical, according to Owens Corning Area Sales Manager Eddie Lane. And, OptiSpray™ F reinforcement, a multi-end roving, allows for less down time and potentially lower resin consumption which in turn improves manufacturing efficiency," said Lane.



Figure 1 Continuous Roving Advantex® Glass Fiber



Figure 2 Regal Operators Spraying OptiSpray™ rovings on a Complex Mold.

Regal Boats, a Christian-based, family-operated business located in Orlando, Florida, has been manufacturing pleasure and speed boats ranging in size from 19 ft. to 52 ft. for almost 40 years. Regal Boats has successfully used Owens Corning's glass fiber reinforcements in its manufacturing process for many years, asserted Pat Wiesner, Regal Boats V.P. of Engineering. "One of the first things that impressed me with the Owens Corning OptiSpray™ F gun roving using Advantex® glass was how well the material retained its physical properties after being exposed to corrosive conditions," stated Wiesner. "When we trialed the material, the first thing we noticed was the speed of the glass wet out (Fig. 2). We were able to reduce the resin by 3 % to 5 % compared to the gun roving we used previously. This reduction in resin saves us both money and weight, and both are important considerations when building boats," continued Wiesner.

## CASE STUDY



Regal Boats is truly a family company. It was founded in 1969 by Paul and Carol Kuck who together had a vision of creating innovative water craft with the highest standards of quality in the industry. They left the legacy of a new world class standard in boating luxury, and the company is now operated by their three children along with approximately 450 employees. Today, Regal boats define state-of-the-art craftsmanship, and continue to carry Paul and Carol's philosophy that faith and stewardship will always guide the way.

A Regal boat earns its reputation for inspiring performance based on the design of its hull — the core over which everything else is built. Regal Boats is one of the original boat manufacturers to implement the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) certification. In addition, Regal Boats has received 19 Customer Satisfaction Index (CSI) awards in the last seven years from the National Marine Manufacturers Association, including five awards in 2008 alone; one for each type of boat that Regal builds. And, in 2009, Regal Boats ranked "Highest in Customer Satisfaction with Express Cruisers (24-33 feet) for the third year in a row.

"OptiSpray™ F reinforcement is a winning formula for both Regal Boats and Owens Corning. Combining the corrosion resistance of Advantex® glass with superior wetting properties, this roving solution is truly a double-win for manufacturers," concluded Lane.

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