WET-LAID TECHNOLOGY IMPLEMENTATION IN REVALORIZATION OF SOLID WASTES GENERATED IN URBAN OR INDUSTRIAL ENVIRONMENTS. - ATHENS 2014 -



Research Group on Materials and Sustainability Sagrario Gironés (sgirones@aitex.es) textile research institute AITEX – A non-profit Technological Institute created in 1985, whose main objective is to improve competitiveness of companies, encouraging modernization measures, the introduction of new technologies and improving the quality of the companies and their products.



Aitex Headquarters, Alcoy (Spain)



2008: Aitex technical offices located in 3 countries 2012: Aitex technical offices located in 9 countries







### R & D – WET-LAID TECHNOLOGY



**1. BASIS OF WET-LAID TECHNOLOGY** 

2. EXPERTISE IN BIOCOMPOSITES DEVELOPMENT

3. BIOCOMPOSITES BASED ON POSIDONIA ALGAE WASTES

4. CONCLUSIONS





Wet-laid technology is based on a nonwoven production process in which the textile fibres are suspended in an aqueous medium, and are then deposited on a conveyor belt that carries the nonwoven sheet to the consolidation station.





#### **FIBRES PREPARATION**





#### WET FORMATION OF THE VEIL









#### NONWOVEN CONSOLIDATION

## THERMAL CONSOLIDATION

The bonds between the fibers of the nonwoven are generated by the action of the temperature inside the drying module, through the fusion of the thermo-melting fibres in the veil.





#### **FINISHING OF NONWOVEN: CALENDERING**





# 2. EXPERTISE IN BIOCOMPOSITES DEVELOPMENT





PRESSURE

This work is part of the project 2011 LIFE11 ENV/E/000600: SEAMATTER-"Revalorization of coastal algae wastes in textile nonwoven industry with applications in building noise isolation" funded by the LIFE+ programme.



### CLEANING, DRYING AND CRUSHING

**DEVELOPMENT OF NONWOVENS** 

WET LAID TECHNOLOGY

CHARACTERIZATION OF NONWOVENS

**DEVELOPMENT OF BIOCOMPOSITES** 

PRESS MOULDING THECHNOLOGY

INJECTION MOULDING THECHNOLOGY



#### WET-LAID NONWOVEN BASED ON POSIDONIA ALGAE WASTES



#### WET-LAID NONWOVEN BASED ON POSIDONIA ALGAE WASTES

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and set and		Reference	Material	Composition % (p/p)
		POSWS-G1	Posidonia oceanica waste fibre G1	70
			Lyocell fibre	20
			PLA fibre	10
		POSWS-G2	Posidonia oceanica waste fibre G2	70
	POSWS-G2		Lyocell fibre	20
			PLA fibre	10
			Posidonia oceanica waste fibre G3	70
		POSWS-G3	Lyocell fibre	20
			PLA fibre	10
	POSWS-G3			
aitex		_		

Athens, 12th of June

CHARACTERIZATION OF WET LAID NONWOVENS

## **MECHANICAL PROPERTIES**

ISO 29073-3:1993

Textiles. test methods for nonwovens. Part 3: Determination of tensile strength and elongation.

Dynamometer

Non-woven veil

Universe

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#### **CHARACTERIZATION OF WET LAID NONWOVENS**

## **MECHANICAL PROPERTIES**

Reference	Direction	Tensile Strength (N)	Elongation at break (%)
POSWS-G1	Lengthwise	63	2.8
	Crosswise	30	2.8
POSWS-G2	Lengthwise	79	4.0
	Crosswise	51	5.4
POSWS-G3	Lengthwise	30	3.0
	Crosswise	27	3.2









**CHARACTERIZATION OF WET LAID NONWOVENS** 

## **ACOUSTIC PROPERTIES**

UNE-EN ISO 10534-2:2002

## Sound Absorption coefficient in normal incidence (a)



 $\alpha$  close to 0 = worse sound absorbent material  $\alpha$  close to 1 = better sound absorbent material





Low Frequencies

50 Hz to 1,6 kHz



**High Frequencies** 

500 Hz to 6,4 kHz

Impedance Tube (Kundt Tube)



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#### **CHARACTERIZATION OF WET LAID NONWOVENS**

# **ACOUSTIC PROPERTIES**



#### **CHARACTERIZATION OF WET LAID NONWOVENS**

# **ACOUSTIC PROPERTIES**



**BIOCOMPOSITE BASED ON POSIDONIA ALGAE WASTES** 

## PRESS MOULDING TECHNOLOGY





Pressure	8 Tonnes
Temperature	165ºC
Time	10 min





**BIOCOMPOSITE BASED ON POSIDONIA ALGAE WASTES** 

## PRESS MOULDING TECHNOLOGY



POSWS-G1

POSWS-G3





#### **BIOCOMPOSITE BASED ON POSIDONIA ALGAE WASTES**

## INJECTION MOULDING TECHNOLOGY



Cure time	10 hours
Cure Temperature	Ambient Temperature







**BIOCOMPOSITE BASED ON POSIDONIA ALGAE WASTES** 

# **INJECTION MOULDING TECHNOLOGY**

POSWS-G1



POSWS-G2

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#### **AGROINDUSTRIAL & NATURAL WASTES PROJECTS**



# 4. CONCLUSIONS



1 Wet-laid technology allows to obtain technical non-wovens suitable to be implemented in composites manufacturing by means of compression and injection moulding techniques.



Very short fibres or even powder materials can be processed using wet-laid technology in order to obtain technical non-wovens.



Natural wastes find a huge variety of applications in technical non-wovens development. It is important to identify the optimum binder agent (thermoplastic material to improve the mechanical properties of the non-woven). In addition, chemical treatments with compatibilizing agents could enhance the mechanical properties of non-wovens and subsequent composites obtained based on them.

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Non-wovens and composites based on natural wastes can be successfully applied as acoustic insulation systems. Anyway, fire retardant treatments should be implemented in these ecological building products.

**ATHENS 2014** 

Athens, 12th of June

Centre for research, innovation and advanced technical services for textile, clothing and technical textiles sectors.

# THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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