DITCH LINING



In October 2014, Concrete Canvas[®] GCCM* (CC) was used to line a newly excavated drainage ditch at Mirny Airport, Yakutia, Russia. The airport serves Mirna Diamond Mine and is the main means of transport in and out of the mine due to the remote location. Yukutia's severe weather conditions mean that there are only 3 months of the year during which construction is possible, making speed of installation vital. Additionally, even during this 3 month window, the temperatures remain very low. This, along with the expense of transporting raw materials to such a remote location, rules out almost all other ditch lining options.

Traditional concreting methods were considered, however these would require much longer installation times and would be halted by any precipitation or low temperatures. These methods had been tried before and proved to be unsuitable. The loose ground conditions resulted in undermining, and freeze thaw weathering was also a major issue. CC was chosen because it could be installed rapidly, in low temperatures and in adverse weather conditions, freeing up more time for other necessary construction works on site. CC is also more resistant to freeze thaw weathering due to the 3D fibre matrix within the material preventing crack propagation.

*Geosynthetic Cementitious Composite Mat

CONCRETE CANVAS



DITCH LINING

Mirny Airport



Bulk roll of CC13[™] being delivered to site CC mounted onto a spreader beam and hung from a crane

Installation

24 Bulk rolls of 13mm thick CC (CC13[™]) were delivered to Mirny airport and transported to site using a forklift. The ditch was excavated to profile using a 20T excavator. An anchor trench was created at the crest of the ditch to allow the leading edge of the CC to be buried so as to prevent undermining.

The CC was mounted onto a spreader beam and hung from a crane, unrolled across the ditch before being cut to specific profile length with a utility knife, minimising wastage. The contractor laid the CC transversely, overlapping layers by 100mm in the direction of water flow. The overlaps were screwed at 200mm centres with 30mm screws. 400mm groundpegs were inserted through every overlap at the crest of the ditch. One longitudinal layer of CC was used to cover the leading edge of the transverse layers and then buried into the anchor trench as an extra precaution against undermining. The CC was hydrated using a hose with spray nozzle attached and a 6000L water carrier. After hydration, the CC was protected with plastic sheeting due to the expected low overnight temperatures.



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Bulk roll of CC13[™] being lowered into position



Overlapping the CC by 100mm





Joining the CC overlaps





Protecting the CC with plastic sheeting





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Summary

1680sqm of CC13[™] were installed in 3 days, compared to the estimated 1 month it would have taken to install a traditional solution, meaning **CC was 10 times faster to install.** Installation was carried out during day temperatures of 5 degrees Celsius down to night temperatures of -4 degrees Celsius. A material saving of around 90% was achieved, meaning a much lower logistical cost and minimal plant requirements, allowing other works to run consecutively. **The client was satisfied with the product and is considering placing another order for the next construction period.**