

FRP systems for structural rehabilitation: growth or maturity?

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The use of fibre reinforced polymer (FRP) based advanced composite systems for the repair and strengthening of structures has evolved from an emerging technology to an established engineering technique. Structural rehabilitation with externally bonded FRP reinforcement has a track record of over 15 years of widespread commercial applications world-wide and this has been reflected in growing availability of standards and codes. Moreover, it has been 26 years since the first application of bonded FRP strips, whereas 640 m of glass fibre based FRP were applied for strengthening of the Kattenbusch bridge in Germany. Hence, has the technology life cycle reached maturity? Should we rest on our tremendous achievements as a research community in this topic? To answer these questions the key note will explore various aspects of innovation in FRP systems for structural rehabilitation, especially in the framework of strengthening of concrete structures.