



Meanwhile, Directa Plus is developing a range of graphene-enhanced luxury accessories as part an exclusive contract with an existing customer worth €130,000.

But the G+ compound has wider applications than textiles.

### **Partnerships in transport, oil and gas**

Directa Plus said in April that it is working with Marangoni -one of Italy's leading re-tread companies -to produce better performing tyres for commercial buses and lorries.

The company believes the G+ compound will increase grip, durability and fuel efficiency as well as extend the life of a tyre.

In the oil and gas sector, the firm has joined forces with Italian firm Sartec Srl to develop a commercial-scale industrial system using its graphene-based Grafysorber product for treating oil-contaminated produced water.

The agreement follows initial joint research over the last eight months during which extensive tests on the Grafysorber product were successfully carried out.

Since the agreement, the first phase of industrial field testing of Grafysorber has been completed.

The test was to remove petroleum hydrocarbons from the water produced as a by-product from oil and gas wells so that it can be reused.

Romanian group OMV Petrom said the quality of water improved using Grafysorber.

### **First manufacturer to use Directa's products**

Vittoria was the first manufacturer to use Directa's products, firstly in a carbon fibre wheel, and then in "intelligent" bicycle tyres.

These stay very hard when rolling, but soft when braking, and were used at the Rio Olympics, where cyclists won four medals using them.

Last December Directa Plus an order to supply 250 kilos of G+ for incorporation into Vittoria's range of graphene-enhanced bicycle tyres and wheels.

### **Road durability**

But it was the results of a trial in September that saw the world's first road has been resurfaced with a supermodifier containing the company's graphene that casught the market's attention.

Ecopave, which is based on Directa's Graphene Plus graphene product, has been laid on a section of Rome's Strada Provinciale Ardeatina.

Directa has developed Ecopave with Iterchimica, an Italian-based maker of products that enhance asphalt performance, which claims it can boost the life of a road from 6-7 years to between 12-14.

At 50p, Directa is valued at £21.5mln.

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