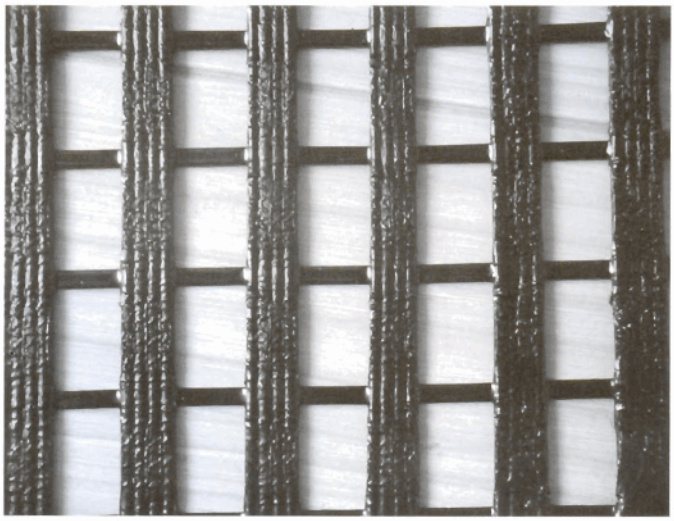
STRATA GEOGRID TURNS UNUSABLE LAND TO PREMIUM AIRPORT PARKING IN SEATTLE

Sea-Tac International Airport in Seattle, Washington has grown to become the 18th busiest airport in the country and the need for convenient parking is a growing concern. To help provide needed parking, one of the area's leading parking services, MasterPark Inc., sought to turn unusable land near the airport into a valuable $20-per-night parking lot. Five retaining walls up to 33 feet in height reinforced with geogrid were needed to build up the site and create a level and stable area for the parking lot. Goodfellow Bros. of Maple Valley, WA, the general contractor, and Sound Retaining Walls of Tacoma, WA, selected Strata Systems to provide the geogrid reinforcement for the complex array of walls. The retaining wall design specified Stratagrid® with embedment depths up to 26 feet. Goodfellow Bros. had to excavate 35-foot tall back-cuts and haul the soil off site to allow for the reinforcement and the construction of the walls. Then, as Sound Retaining Walls constructed the segmental walls, the soil was brought back to the site for reinforced backfill. Segmental retaining wall construction, backfill and compaction of the reinforced fill are always a coordinated effort. Since the backfill was stored offsite, both contractors had to make concerted efforts to coordinate the construction of the walls to optimize construction efficiency.

A total of 18,000 square yards of Stratagrid SG200, SG500 and SG600 was installed behind the 19,000 square feet of segmental retaining walls. The contractor completed the installation without any special equipment saving time and money. This site was once considered unusable because of the dramatic grade change and the cost of development was not feasible. Today, with the economy of utilizing soil reinforcement technology, this site is now a very valuable asset to MasterPark, Inc. ■



MITSUBISHI PLASTICS ESTABLISHES PRODUCTION LINES FOR ALUMINA FIBERS

Having completed the setting up of its two new production line for MAFTEC™ alumina fibers in February and May, Mitsubishi Plastics has announced the construction of an additional manufacturing line. The new facility will come up at its Sakaide plant located in Sakaide City, Kagawa Prefecture, which will be complete by December 2012. Mitsubishi Plastics plans to increase its production capacity of MAFTEC™ to approximately 5,600 tons/year, after the launch of two production lines at the Sakaide Plant in February and the end of May this year, respectively. In addition, the company has recently determined to set up another additional line with an annual production capacity of 400 tons at the same plant, since the growth of the strong demand for automotive exhaust gas treatment equipment is outpacing the company's production increase. The third production line will complete by the end of December 2012. The demand for alumina fibers is expected to continue growing, taking into consideration the rising car production in emerging countries and stricter exhaust gas regulations for automobiles and construction machinery worldwide. Mitsubishi Plastics will further increase its supply capacity while keeping an eye on the market. The alumina fiber MAFTEC™, which Mitsubishi Plastics has positioned as a growth business, possesses various outstanding characteristics such as being able to maintain its thermal insulation and cushioning properties for long periods even in extremely hot environments that surpassed 1,600°C. Used as support mats for DPFs (Diesel Particulate Filter) and catalytic converters for exhaust gas-treatment equipment in cars and insulation in reaheating furnaces, the material has received high praise from both domestic and overseas users. In particular, the material is used as support mats in around 40% of the catalytic converters and DPFs throughout the world (for alumina fibers as a whole, approximately 80%; Mitsubishi Plastics estimate). ■