

NEx Advances Global Collaboration Through International Engagement

In November 2025, NEx: An ACI Center of Excellence for Nonmetallic Building Materials participated in the 19th Middle East Corrosion Conference and Exhibition (MECC) in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, an international forum focused on advancing materials performance and durability in corrosion-critical environments. NEx's presence at MECC supported the organization's ongoing mission to accelerate the global adoption of nonmetallic materials in infrastructure, energy, and industrial applications where corrosion resistance, longevity, and sustainability are paramount.

Showcasing Nonmetallic Innovation

Throughout the conference, NEx engaged with engineers, researchers, and industry leaders, highlighting how fiber-reinforced polymer (FRP) and other nonmetallic solutions are addressing some of the world's most demanding corrosion challenges. At the NEx Booth, attendees connected with NEx representatives to discuss:

- Emerging nonmetallic applications in harsh and coastal environments;
- Research-driven approaches to extending asset service life; and
- Global collaboration opportunities across academia, industry, and owners.

NEx also held technical discussions with leaders from ACI and partner organizations, reinforcing the importance of education-focused engagement. Frederick Grubbe, ACI Executive Vice President; Ahmad Mhanna, ACI MENA Regional Director; Will Gold, ACI Engineer; Mahmut Ekenel, NEx Technical Consultant and ACI Conformity Assessment Certification Engineer; and Celeste Stawiarska, NEx Marketing Manager, participated in the conference. Together, the group represented a cross section of leadership,

technical expertise, and outreach, reflecting NEx's role as a link between research, standards, and real-world implementation.

International Workshop on Composites in Construction

NEx contributed to the International Workshop on Composites in Construction, organized by the Turkish Composite Manufacturers Association (TCMA) and ACI in Pendik, Istanbul, Türkiye. The workshop brought together industry experts and speakers to explore the current and future applications of composite materials in construction. Discussions focused on design considerations, durability performance, and the expanding role of nonmetallic materials in addressing modern infrastructure challenges. Ekenel and Gold participated in the program alongside regional leaders, further reinforcing the value of international knowledge exchange and collaboration across the global composites community.

Advancing NEx's Global Footprint

Participation in MECC 2025 and the International Workshop on Composites in Construction marked another step in NEx's expanding international engagement, particularly within regions where corrosion mitigation and material durability are critical priorities for long-term infrastructure resilience. By engaging directly with regional stakeholders, NEx continues to strengthen global partnerships, elevate awareness of nonmetallic solutions, and support the exchange of research and best practices.

For more information about NEx, visit www.nonmetallic.org or follow NEx on LinkedIn at www.linkedin.com/company/nex-center-of-excellence.