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P R E S S R E L E A S E

Scheuten is to build a new float glass factory in Germany

Scheuten has announced that a new float glass factory is to be built in Germany. The factory, with a storage and production area of 80,000 m² and involving an investment of some 190 million euro, will be put up at Osterweddingen in the federal state of Sachsen-Anhalt and will ultimately provide more than 250 jobs.

Growth

In the words of Léon Giesen, CEO of Scheuten: "Scheuten's huge growth in both the glass and solar divisions has triggered an increasing need for glass. In order to achieve our ambitions for the years ahead we need to step up our basic glass manufacturing capacity". The new factory is expected to be operational by the end of 2009. In addition to basic (float) glass production, the factory will focus specifically on the manufacture of extra clear glass, which because of its higher light transmission factor can be used for solar modules, among other things.

Float glass

Float glass manufacture is an impressive process, as will be evident from these few statistics about the new factory: 42 hectares (105 acres) of ground, 800 meters long production line and 700 tonnes a day manufacturing capacity, providing 150 jobs. The manufacturing process is roughly a five-stage one: in stage 1 the raw materials, basically sand, are mixed. In stage 2 a special sand mix is melted in an oven at 1600°C to form molten glass. In the third stage the molten glass is formed into plates and flattened on a bath of molten tin. At the end of the float bath the glass is transferred into a cooling section in which the temperature comes down from 600°C to 60°C. Cutting the glass into plate sections measuring a standard 3,21 x 6,00 m is the final stage. The glass is then processed to produce, among other things, insulating glass, safety glass and solar glass. Part of this manufacturing process is also planned for the new factory, which will mean a further 100 jobs. According to Ruud Geerlings, the company's Business Development Manager, "a float glass factory operates around the clock, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for a period of 15 years".

Innovation and sustainability

Scheuten sets great store by innovation and sustainability. The new factory will therefore be applying the very latest techniques, in the process setting a benchmark for efficiency, product quality and energy consumption. The latter feature is not only good from the environmental aspect but - given constantly rising energy costs - absolutely essential from the economic standpoint too.

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Scheuten is a leading and fast growing international high volume manufacturer of total solutions in glass and solar energy systems with its head office in Venlo. Scheuten employs a staff of 1,500 and has a turnover of 350 million euro.

Scheuten continually invests in new developments. New innovative glass products are developed by combining knowledge from all its production facilities. Cooperation with leading universities and research institutes leads to sustainable, functional solutions in the fields of glass and solar technology.

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