



Attendees at the AIGMF Executive Committee meeting in Guwahati.

### AIGMF Executive Committee highlights investment opportunities for industry leaders

Hosted and sponsored by NES Refractories, the All India Glass Manufacturers Federation (AIGMF) Executive Committee meeting was held on 10 December in Guwahati in the Indian state of Assam.

Delegates learned about opportunities for investment in the northeast region, including subsidies offered by the Government of India and Government of Assam and the advantages of the area's availability of natural gas, limestone, dolomite, sillimanite, mullite and corundum.

In a technical session moderated by Dave Fordham of *Glass Worldwide* (honorary AIGMF member), Umesh Kumar IPS, State Resource Person, Competition Commission of India, Government of India gave a presentation on "Competition Law for Trade Associations and Enterprises" and Cyril Linnot and Suraj Kumar of SEFPRO/ SEPR India discussed the application of self-flow monolithics to prolong the life of glass melting furnaces in hot and cold repairs.



Aman Gupta, Managing Partner of NES Refractories, host and sponsor of the AIGMF meeting.

A concluding lecture by Dr. K. Annapurna, Chief Scientist, Glass Division CSIR-Central Glass & Ceramic Research Institute, summarised International Year of Glass (IYoG) activities in India. Commemorative IYoG glass bottles specially made by AGI glaspac and HNG from recycled glass were also awarded.

A highlight of the meeting was the release of the AIGMF calendar 2023 on the theme 'Green as Glass', a project centred on IYoG celebrations and featuring 2022 winners of the AIGMF's annual contest for youth: the first-ever poem/essay writing contest on 'Green as Glass' that coincided with the International Youth Day.

Tanuj Samaddar, 2020 winner of the AIGMF's 'Drawing Competition 3.0' on the theme 'Glass Protects', addressed attendees in Guwahati and enthused about glass as "the only 100% recyclable packaging and building material."

NES organised an accompanying tour to the holy city and delegates visited the Kamakhya Temple. The meeting came to an end with a cultural evening programme by NES that showcased the indigenous Bihu folk dance, an important part of Assamese culture.

"Most of the glass manufacturers present in the event have been using NES products and they expressed their full satisfaction on the quality, service and performance of the products" commented Aman Gupta, Managing Partner of North East Sillimanite (a unit of NES Refractories LLP). NES, located in Guwahati, is successfully utilising local resources and providing world class bonded refractories and monolithics to the container, float, solar, sheet, figured and opal glass sectors in India and abroad with products such as high alumina (42%–99%  $Al_2O_3$ ) and basic refractories including 88%–98% magnesia, magnesia-zircon, magnesia-zirconia-alumina and special refractories zircon and zircon-mullite.

The Guwahati meeting followed a special event in Delhi in November where Dr. Arun Varshneya, President of the Society of Glass Technology, held interactive sessions at St. Thomas School and Delhi Technological University at the invitation of the AIGMF. The programme saw a participation of approximately 300 students and topics covered by Dr. Varshneya included 'Stronger Glass Products' and an IYoG overview.

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### 2027 start date set for Encirc and Diageo's hydrogen-powered glass production

Encirc and Diageo have partnered to make the world's first net zero glass bottles at scale by 2030. Encirc will upgrade its Elton plant in Cheshire, UK with a new hybrid furnace powered by a mix of low-carbon hydrogen (supplied by Vertex Hydrogen) and green electricity to reduce carbon emissions by 90%. It is expected that carbon capture technology will trap any remaining emissions. Encirc's furnace will manufacture up to 200 million glass bottles annually for premium alcoholic drinks brands owned by Diageo (Smirnoff, Captain Morgan, Gordon's and Tanqueray).

In 2021, Encirc, in collaboration Glass Futures, ran a successful trial employing sustainable biofuels and 100% recycled glass to make the 'most sustainable bottles ever produced' for brands including Diageo's Black & White.

Building the new furnace in Elton will be "a major

step in our goal of producing net zero glass by 2030," said Adrian Curry, Managing Director of Encirc. "With support from the Government and key partners [...] and Diageo we believe it will be possible to have this first of its kind furnace up and running at the beginning of 2027."

Commenting on how the partnership affirms Diageo's commitment to halve its Scope 3 carbon emissions by 2030, Ewan Andrew, President, Global Supply & Procurement and Chief Sustainability Officer at Diageo, noted that, "All renewable energy options are

important to us and we'd like to see Government and industry further accelerating the direct supply of green energy as a mainstream option. Ultimately, we look forward to a world where people can enjoy their favourite drinks from zero carbon glass bottles."

"We are delighted to be supporting Encirc and Diageo with low carbon hydrogen as the UK continues to lead the world to deliver tangible decarbonisation at pace and scale," added Joe Seifert, CEO of Vertex Hydrogen.

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