

France

French inspection suppliers join forces under Tiama Group



MSC and SGCC have been brought together under the Tiama Group. The move comes after LBO France (a private equity company) and Tiama reached an agreement for the takeover of Verrela by Tiama.

By joining the two companies the Tiama Group has strengthened its position as one of the global leaders in vision-based inspection systems. The move is expected to significantly broaden the research and development potential and range of services for Tiama Group customers.

Edouard Marienbach, President of Tiama's

board and Luc Boulant, President of SGCC's board, decided that MSC and SGCC should combine forces in the hollow glass container inspection field to provide more effective solutions for the glass market, including greater reactivity, a more comprehensive range of products and services and an extensive network with 250 employees.

"Innovation and service are the keystones for our development strategy," says Mr Boulant. "Combining the two groups provides the means to achieve our ambitions."

Tiama Group

The Tiama Group operates three main sites in France (Lyon, Rennes and now Gennevilliers). It also has subsidiaries in Belgium, Germany, Spain, USA and China and an office in Russia. In 2007 the Group achieved sales of almost €110 million, 85% of which were exports.

The Tiama Group will now operate five business units:

- Hollow glass – MSC, SGCC and Visiglas
- Automotive industry – EDIXIA
- Food and beverage – LUCEO
- Ophthalmic – SGCC
- Service business unit for the Tiama Group.

Ethiopia

African investment will produce 40,000 tonnes of glass

An investment project is underway in Africa to produce 40,000 tonnes of glass in Ethiopia.

The investment is being made by the China-Africa Fund and the Overseas Construction Co.

Production is expected to begin in May this year and

will reportedly represent the first local glass factory in Ethiopia. The investment is part of four being made by the China-Africa Fund in various industries; an investment worth more than \$90 million.

Meanwhile, a report from Statistics South Africa

confirms that production of glass and glass products in South Africa from January to November 2007 was up 3.2% over the same period in 2006. Sales of glass and glass products were also 8.9% higher for the same months compared to 2006.

Canada

O-I to close plant

Owens-Illinois (O-I) has announced that as a result of the ongoing review of its global manufacturing footprint, it will close its Scoudouc, New Brunswick, Canada plant on 31st March of this year. Approximately 200 jobs will be affected by the closure.

Production allocated to the Scoudouc plant will be transferred to four other O-I manufacturing facilities around Canada.

Scott Murchison, President, North America Glass Containers, said: "This has been a very difficult decision and we sincerely regret having to take this step. We have worked to improve operations and to try to secure business to support the Scoudouc facility. Unfortunately, market conditions have not provided any alternative solutions."

France

Fives Group rebrands

The Stein Heurtey glass group, a subsidiary of the Fives Group, has changed its name to Fives Stein in keeping with the Group's rebranding as a whole.



fives stein

The Stein Heurtey glass group companies are Stein Heurtey, Belgium Glass Equipment, BH-F (Engineering) and Penelectro; all of which have adopted the redesigned visual identify of the Fives Group under the brand name Fives Stein.