

Emhart Glass SA, Cham, Switzerland

Production Flexibility through Innovation

Emhart Glass Technical Symposium 2004/2005 – Symposium, Open House Attracts Crowd at Düsseldorf

Two events, held in conjunction with the glasstec 2004 trade fair in Düsseldorf, helped dispel rumors concerning the health of Emhart Glass. Although the leading supplier to the container glass industry chose not to participate in the trade fair, its technical symposium and open house at its nearby office in Neuss were well received by industry representatives who attended the two events.

“We are doing great,” Jann Hatz, Vice President for Marketing, said regarding concerns about the company’s decision not to be at glasstech this year. “We were convinced that we could do much better for our customers than just putting up a nice booth with a hospitality section, waiting for them to come, and showing what they, in general, already know. This is why, for this year, we chose to take a more proactive approach and go to the customers and tell them about new

things and about the vision Emhart Glass has regarding the future of glass container forming and inspection.” The company’s two-day “Technical Symposium 2004/2005 – Production Flexibility Through Innovation” attracted 65 glassmakers representing 28 glass companies from more than 20 nations. More than 120 glass company representatives visited the company’s Neuss office during the open house, which took place for three days after the symposium.

During the symposium, Emhart Glass engineers, research scientists, and marketing executives offered eight technical presentations on technological trends, as well as container forming, process control, and inspection solutions. The event also included workshops in which glassmakers had an opportunity to share their concerns and knowledge with colleagues and with Emhart Glass representatives. The Neuss open house also gave guests an opportunity to see working NIS, AIS, and IS machine sections, the new FlexIS forming control, and all three of the new Veritas series inspection machines running on a loop conveyor.

“The purpose of these events was to give our customers an opportunity to see a broad range of our innovative products and to convince them that we continue to be the leading supplier to the industry,” Hatz said. The Düsseldorf symposium was the second of six symposia being presented by Emhart Glass through June 2005. The first event took place in October in Munich. The remaining four symposia will take place in Thailand, USA, Egypt, and Russia.

Emhart Glass, a division of Bucher Holding AG, is headquartered in Cham, Switzerland, with offices and manufacturing facilities located throughout the world. The company is a leading supplier of machines, controls and parts to the glass container industry.



Glassmakers representing 24 nations, 40 glass plants, and 28 different glass container manufacturing companies gathered in November in Düsseldorf, Germany, for the Emhart Glass “Technical Symposium 2004/2005 – Production Flexibility Through Innovation.”
Photo: Emhart Glass

Some Questions to Steven J. Pinkerton, Vice President RD&E, Emhart Glass Research, Inc.

While at the Emhart Glass Technical Symposium *GlasIngenieur* had the opportunity to address some questions to Steven J. Pinkerton, Vice President RD&E.

GlasIngenieur: This year Emhart Glass didn't take part at the glass-tec'2004, the world's most important trade fair for glass technology and glass products. This meant that Emhart Glass, the market and technology leader in the area of the forming of container glass, was absent. What is the reason for this?

Steven J. Pinkerton: The technical symposium gives us a much better opportunity to provide detailed, technical information to our customers than is possible at a trade fair. Emhart Glass is in the business to develop future solutions for the container glass industry. We consider it as an important fact to discuss such solutions with our customers in the entire world and to develop such solutions to the advantage of customers. Contents of this year's symposium are, therefore, to introduce in lectures and workshops our new developments. In addition, the participants get an opportunity to get to know our newest machines in more technical detail than is possible at a trade fair. In Düsseldorf, the symposium was followed by an open house at our branch office in Neuss. In Neuss, we were able to show working displays of all of our major products – NIS, FlexIS, and the Veritas inspection systems, as well as functioning AIS and IS sections with many of our newest technologies for takeout and invert mechanisms. We could never have accomplished both a technical symposium and extensive equipment demonstrations at a trade fair. The technical symposium will be offered four more times in 2005 in Thailand, USA, Egypt, and Moscow.

GlasIngenieur: Which new developments does Emhart Glass show the participants?

Steven J. Pinkerton: It is systems, such as the NIS, AIS and IS machines, which are well known and are working reliably in the container glass industry around the globe for many years. The symposium also introduced participants to our newest products – FlexIS and Veritas – as well as advanced services, such as virtual container forming and process optimisation techniques.

GlasIngenieur: Container glass is strongly under stress on all markets of the world. The prices and costs on the one hand, on the other hand the alternative packing materials as plastic material. Which main objectives result from it for the technology and machine supplier Emhart Glass?

Steven J. Pinkerton: Glass has a very big potential as packing material because of its material qualities and because it is superior other packing materials in many ways. For Emhart Glass it is important to help the container glass industry to develop this potential as completely as possible. The focus for us in product development is the further improvement in the reproducibility and the flexibility, both for the process and for the product, the glass container. Through this, the efficiency of the production is increased and the production costs for the product are lowered. We accomplish these goals step by step by improved servo and control mechanisms in our machines and plants.

GlasIngenieur: Great efforts were made in the past to make glass containers lighter and nevertheless unbreakable. Are the limits already reached or does the light glass technology offer sufficient development potential?



Emhart Glass Vice President RD&E Steven J. Pinkerton: With our modern solutions we help the container glass industry to improve the efficiency of the processes and to fully exploit the potential of the packing material glass.

Photo: TP.

Steven J. Pinkerton: Of course we aren't at the end of the light glass technology. Therefore we also concentrate on developing this potential.

GlasIngenieur: Mr Pinkerton, I thank you for the interesting insights into the present work of Emhart Glass. I wish you much success in your work.

The talk with Steven J. Pinkerton took place with Dr. Eberhard Irmer for *GlasIngenieur* during the Emhart Glass Technical Symposium, Düsseldorf, 11-8-2004.

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