

GIMAV is ambassador for made-in-Italy in new global markets

The most recent market research indicates that the glass processing machinery manufacturing industry is one of the key drivers of Italian exports. Even in 2008, a year that bodes poorly for the global economy, the 75 companies that make up GIMAV, the Association of Italian manufacturers and suppliers of machinery, equipment and special products for glass processing, are showing signs of impressive vitality.

With GIMAV members accounting for approximately 90% of overall turnover, the sector recorded consistent increases in sales during 2007, rising to a final + 10% approx. over the previous year, with more than 75% allotted to exports. Although to a lesser degree, this kind of growth seems like it's going to hold in 2008, as well. Signs from various world markets during these first few months of the year show progress in Eastern European countries and in Asia. The prospects for Western Europe appear to be stable, while the US is in a steep nosedive. Once again, as in 2007, the primary outlet markets for GIMAV-member products should prove to be Russia, China and France.

It's widely accepted that in each market, activity in the capital goods sector is a good indicator of future trends. GIMAV, spokesperson around the world for Italy's glass processing machinery manufacturing industry, is focusing particular attention on China, Brazil, Russia, India and South Africa, specifically those markets that show tangible evidence and serious growth potential, echoed by many positive opinions voiced by the world's economic experts.

These same countries are also the venues for the leading international trade fairs in which GIMAV has chosen to participate in 2008, accompanying participants in the group stand of its member firms.

Thanks to GIMAV's support, Italian firms can also partake of a busy calendar of international events, including GULF GLASS in the United Arab Emirates; CHINA GLASS in Beijing (April 10 – 13); GLASS SOUTH AMERICA in Sao Paolo, Brazil (May 8 -10); MIR STEKLA in Moscow (June 9 -12); GLASS EXPO AFRICA in Johannesburg, South Africa (July 23 - 26); and GLASS TECHNOLOGY in New Delhi (December 2008).

2008 is also the year of GLASSTEC, the leading international appointment for the world of glass, scheduled to take place October 21-25 in Düsseldorf. GIMAV and all its members will participate in the event with a group stand measuring more than 13,000 sq. m, vividly decked out in Italy's familiar green, white and red.

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