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release

Saint-Gobain's Flat Glass Sector to build a float glass line in Egypt

In view of the strong growth trends in Middle Eastern markets, Saint-Gobain's Flat Glass Sector has decided to expand its presence in the region with the construction of a float glass production line in Egypt.

This facility is to be operated in a joint-venture that has been founded with MMID (El Mansour and El Maghraby Investment and Development Company), a major Egyptian Group with activities including Real estate and Industry.

The *float* line will be built in Ain El Sokhna, located 120 kilometers east of Cairo and 40 kilometers south of Suez, along the Red Sea coast.

Output from the new facility will be sold on the Egyptian market and also exported to the Middle East and Africa.

The overall cost of the investment will be approximately Euros 120 million. Construction is due to start in 2008 and production in 2009.

This operation constitutes a further step in the Group's growth strategy in emerging countries, where its Flat Glass Sector now generates some 35% of its turnover.

Saint-Gobain's Flat Glass Sector in the Middle East

Ranked number 1 in Europe and number 2 worldwide, Saint-Gobain's Flat Glass Sector is present in 39 countries. It has had a network of commercial agencies (SGG Exprover) in Egypt and the Middle East since the beginning of the 1980s. It also enjoys a presence through Autover, specialized in the glass replacement for the automotive market.

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