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VDMA Forum Glass Technology elected its new chairman

The members of the VDMA Forum Glass Technology elected 57-year old Dr. Bernd-Holger Zippe, Managing Partner of the Wertheim-based Zippe Industrieanlagen GmbH as their new chairman for the coming three year-term at its membership meeting in Karlsruhe, held recently. Dr. Zippe will take over from Mr. Siegfried Glaser (58), Managing Director of FMB Glaser GmbH from Beverungen, who had held this post for six years, and who shall continue to work on the Forum's board.

Members also voted Dr. Harald Jodeit (55), Managing Director of the JSJ Jodeit GmbH from Jena a deputy Chairman. In addition to Dr. Jodeit, Dr. Zippe and Mr. Glaser, the new board also includes Mr. Alfred C. Beimdick (43), Managing Director of Kloepper Maschinentechnik GmbH from Dortmund, as well as Mr. Andreas Gruhle (41), Managing Director of Glamaco Maschinenbau GmbH from Coswig.

"Glass is the material of the future", Dr. Zippe said when taking over his new post. For glass to remain a successful product to manufacture and market, the German companies of the engineering and equipment making sectors supplying the international glass industries are facing major challenges. By adding: "The VDMA will always serve as an innovative and reliable partner of companies", Dr. Zippe paid tribute to this representative body of the sector. A continuous extension of the sectoral network for glass technology and photovoltaics, ongoing emphasis on the trade fair policy and participation in developing the leading Glasstec Fair, joint activities by the sector on important markets as well as continued initiatives in research and innovation and on attracting more new engineers are among the focal activities of the Forum, which will also be promoted by this body under the leadership of Dr. Zippe.

The German glass machinery manufacturers are an organized members' body within the German Engineering Federation (Verband Deutscher Maschinen- und Anlagenbau - VDMA). VDMA represents over 3,000 companies from the machinery and plant manufacturing sector, which is mainly characterized by medium-sized companies. With

a current total of 942,000 employees in Germany and total turnover of 190 billion Euro (2007), the sector is the largest industrial employer and one of the leading German industrial sectors overall.

The Glass Technology Forum is a sector association within the VDMA. It represents 60 companies, which manufacture machinery and plant for the flat, hollow and special glass industry. The sector employs around 4,800 people in Germany, it achieves a turnover of about 740 million Euro and has an export rate of 79 percent. The companies in the Glass Technology Forum cooperate very closely in competence and expertise centres with their technology partners from other areas of the mechanical engineering sector such as electronics production, robotics and automation, lasers and photonics or surface technology, and cooperate intensively with institutes from the fields of research and teaching. In total around 150 companies make up an organized body of members within the VDMA, who are concerned with the theme of glass. Just like the sector it represents, the Glass Technology Forum is internationally orientated. It is also the honorary-specialist sponsor of glasstec, and as a result, partner of Messe Düsseldorf.

More information: www.vdma.org/glassT

Photo:

Glass as the material of the future poses ever new challenges to the companies in the engineering and equipment sectors, Dr. Bernd-Holger Zippe said on his inauguration as the new chairman of VDMA's Glass Technology Forum.