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VERALLIA

Vauxrot glass plant celebrates its furnace rebuild

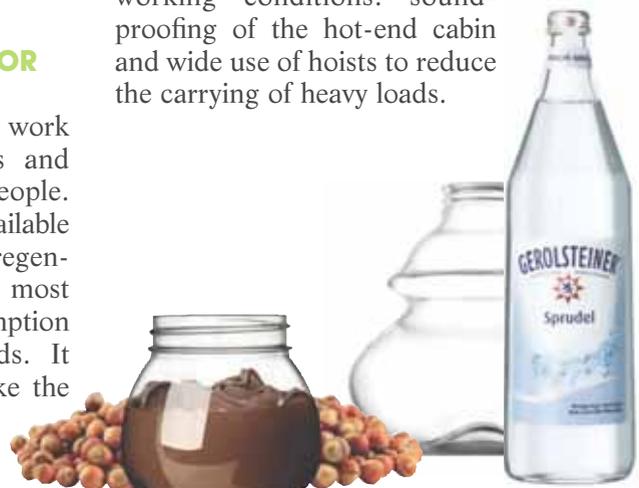
The teams at Verallia's Vauxrot glass plant (Aisne, France) celebrated the lighting of the new furnace during the ignition 'match' ceremony, a glassmaking tradition. After ten days or so, the furnace was ready to supply the site's three production lines, making bottles for the wine, spirits and beer market, the latter notably boosted by the rising trend in micro-breweries. With this EUR 24 million investment, Verallia reaffirms its commitment to sustain and modernize its northern French site, a champion in the field of quick colour

and model changes, thanks to its high expertise in manufacturing complex glassware.

THREE MONTHS OF MAJOR RENOVATION WORK

This major renovation work lasted over three months and involved around 600 people. Equipped with the best available technology, this end-port regenerative furnace meets the most demanding energy-consumption and air-emission standards. It can now run on gas, unlike the previous, 100 per cent fuel-powered installation.

Work was carried out on the hot and cold ends to improve working conditions: sound-proofing of the hot-end cabin and wide use of hoists to reduce the carrying of heavy loads.



Verallia, third global producer of glass packaging for food and beverages, offers innovative, customized and environmentally friendly solutions to more than 10,000 customers around the world. In this article, the company 'speaks' about its recent new furnace lighting at its historical Vauxrot glass plant, now making bottles for the wine, spirits and beer markets.

HISTORICAL GLASSMAKING TRADITIONS

Opened in 1827, the Vauxrot plant is the Verallia group's historical glassmaking facility. In 2015, Verallia invested several hundreds of thousands of Euros to adapt its installations to the new dark amber colour. Almost black with high density, it protects the contents from the effects of light and gives products an image of refinement and distinction. With the Saint-Romain-le-Puy facility (Loire, France), Vauxrot is one of only two Group plants in France making yellow and dark amber

bottles, mainly for the beers and spirits markets. A role model for the circular economy, the Vauxrot plant recycles very high quantities of cullet processed by Everglass in Rozet-Saint-Albin, 30 kilometres from the site.

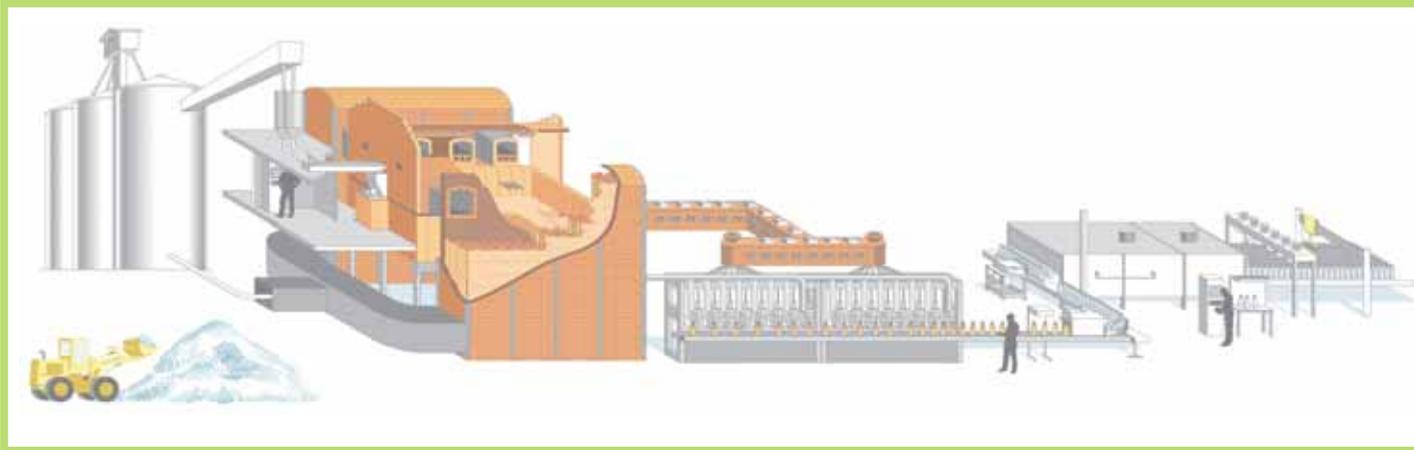
"We now have an extensively modernized manufacturing facility to continue improving quality and productivity, essential on highly competitive markets. We've also improved our teams' working conditions using the 5S method which helps us to ensure safety, cleanliness and the organization of the plant at all



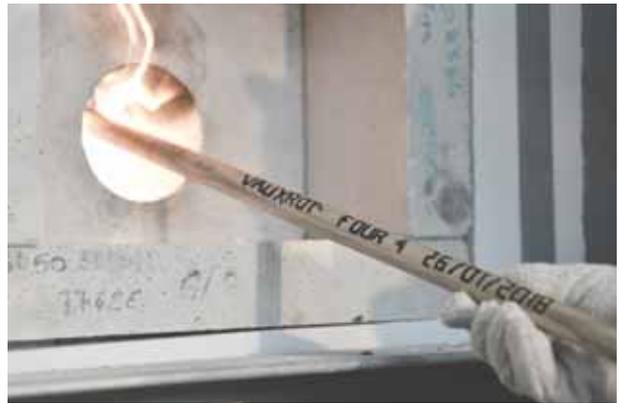
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FURNACE TECHNOLOGY



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times,” stated Thomas Doudoux, Verallia Vauxrot plant manager.

The match ceremony, which celebrates in both a festive and solemn way the lighting of a new furnace, dates back to the times when furnaces were religiously blessed. Though secular today, the event still features a ‘godmother’, a member of the plant team. The godmother of Vauxrot’s new furnace is Elisabeth Demuyt, the plant’s management assistant.

The Vauxrot facility employs around 150 people. It produces 600,000 bottles a day.

VERALLIA – ONE OF THE TOP THREE

An independent group, Verallia is one of the world’s top three manufacturers of glass packaging for food and beverages, and proposes innovative, customized and environmentally friendly solutions. Verallia produced around 16 billion glass bottles and jars in 2016. Verallia’s business model is based on combining the strength of its global network (manufacturing operations in 13 countries, sales locations in 46 countries with five technical centres and 13 product develop-

ment centres) and local customer relationships in all regions. In 2016, Verallia achieved net sales of EUR 2.4 billion. ■



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