



Dynamic transparency: **INNOPTEC's** 'intelligent glass' revolution

At a stand all abuzz with curious visitors to Vitrum 2023, Glass Technology International Senior Editor Nick Fouché spoke to Dr Luigi Cattini, CEO of INNOPTEC, about the innovative technologies for glass that his company was showcasing this year.

GTI: Dr Cattini, what would be your comment on Innoptec's performance over 2023 as compared to that of 2022?

Luigi Cattini: Concerning indications from the markets, we saw some deceleration in the first part of the year. As you can see, there are now signs of recovery. This trade show is rather well-frequented. However, as I noted the first half of 2023 indicated a conspicuous slowdown

in Italy which means that, overall, this year won't be among the most favourable. We've been enjoying some improvement since July with more frequent orders, and here at Vitrum today we're making many positive contacts. That may be a sign of recovery. Interestingly, our strongest contacts so far are coming from countries outside of Italy: mostly from Europe, but also from the Atlantic and Gulf countries.

GTI: Can you talk about any innovative projects your company is currently working on?

LC: Sure. This year we are introducing the SPD film. It's particle distribution, which allows for the regulation of energy passing through glass panes coupled with an variation in blue colour intensity. It's a product for which we're developing technologies

for various applications. So that's what we're onto now. Thanks to its high quality here we have very ambitious expectations because this film effectively controls energy passing through glass panes - essentially reducing energy during the summer and releasing light and energy transmission in winter. To date what I can report is that we already have many requests and a great show of interest.





GTI: Going forward, how would a product of this kind affect our day-to-day lives?

LC: In a nutshell, this technology allows for dynamic transparency of windows and internal partitions - something which static glass can't do. This is dynamic glass, whether we're talking energy transmission or colour transmission. In this way, the glass also allows for privacy. So like many things in modern life, glass too is becoming dynamic. This is a glass that, during the day, can change hour-by-hour - so it's no longer a glass that merely offers static transparency alone. The glass itself needs a lot of technological knowledge, tech service and quality control. Here, indeed, we additionally must be alert to the delicate compromise between different parameters

-already at production- to ensure that this balance remains uniform over time. It calls for dedicated commitment from the team. So our people on the shop floor have to have the specialised

knowledge of physics and chemistries which fully lead to an effective and reliable product. Consequently, our employees need to be both carefully selected and well-trained.



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