

Glass machinery notable **FOREL** shines out again at Vitrum this year

GTI: Joe, against the backdrop of 2022, what can you report so far about Forel's performance over 2023?

Joe Hague: This year's been fantastic for us. We've seen exponential growth in certain sectors. And that's no surprise. Our machinery has been increasingly appreciated, both for its technology and for its performance.

As Vitrum drew to a close this year, FOREL International Business Development Manager Joe Hague met up in Milan with Senior Editor of Glass Technology International Nick Fouché to discuss the latest strides his company has been making within the industry.





That's all coupled with the quality and reliability we typically provide. Mind too that, as a service provider, we've always worked hard to build upon the solid foundations of our proud heritage. Certainly that explains why, with 2022 having turned out as spectacular as it did, for us 2023 has been a growth year as well. Obviously many companies will have provided information about the indus-

try - including the effects of perceived headwinds. But, all said, I'm happy to report that our 2023 numbers still trump those of the preceding year. So, as I intimated before, we're clearly happy with our growth.

GTI: How is Forel navigating the industry in terms of today's innovations and where technologies are currently leading? **JH:** Forel is driven by lis-

tening to customers and our machinery is produced and designed based on what they want. Obviously, we are tuned into market needs and trends from a global perspective, rising to the challenges that our customers face regarding product performance, output and cost. We recognise that institutions from around the world are committed to reducing their carbon footprint and require thorough legislation, increased thermal performance, sustainability and recyclability from our industry. Automation is a key component in reducing cost but it also has a responsibility in producing enriched products at an output ratio that justifies the initial investment. Our priorities are two-fold in this regard, to produce equipment that delivers what our customers want and there markets demand and for that very same equipment to produce and perform as efficiently, reliably and sustainably as possible.

GTI: To conclude, which would be your comments on this specific trade show?

JH: Vitrum is not just an exhibition for our company, it's a passion and we are proud to be showcasing some of our very latest innovations. Our fully automated IGU line with Thermoplastic Applicator is also equipped with an inline buffer station that improves line and product performance and is also fitted with a fully automated off load station and storage solution. Our world-renowned fabrication line equipped here with vertical edge grinding and drilling / milling module has been upgraded with new mechanical and electronic features that allows for the processing of inward radius shapes. We are also delighted to announce new patents for the equipment displayed here and for machinery under development for the processing of ultra-thin glass.

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