

When to think big is to think **MAPPI**

**Nancy Mammaro - CEO
Mappi**

In a trade show as important as Glasstec marks a fresh opportunity to take stock of both the present and future of the glass industry. How a company does this says much

about its outlook on the industry. Take the Italian company Mappi.

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lowed over recent years, which is a path based upon a trio of priorities, namely operational flexibility, energy saving and total quality. These aren't only Mappi's priorities, but the priorities of every glassmaker and entrepreneur who

wishes to be a protagonist in the future. Let's look at them as a whole. Then let's also look at the great breakthrough that Mappi is presenting this year: The MTH temper furnace. Let's go in order, starting



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with Operational Flexibility.

OPERATIONAL FLEXIBILITY

A glassmaker must be prepared to work sheets that are always different in thickness, size and quantity. Furnace set-up must remain easy and swiftly changeable to allow our glassmaker the freedom to concentrate on what's important. Given their technological innovativeness, Mappi furnaces facilitate these shifts - all thanks to a user-friendly approach by which it's easy to give instructions to the machine while also collecting management data. Here, with tempering, it's possible to shift from ultra-thin sheets to those of sizeable thicknesses - right up to the latest innovation introduced a few months ago, the Supertemper option, which allows for the production of flame-resistant glass that attains to E30 standards. All this with the

same furnace controlled by a simple, straightforward touchscreen. Operational flexibility also means using energy with rigorous intelligence - and strictly when needed. Here the furnace only concentrates heat to those areas where glass to be tempered is present, thus allowing for great savings when the furnace isn't

fully loaded. What's known

is that, on average, a tempering furnace is around 65 percent loaded. This means that, once compared to a traditional furnace -which heats the entire loading surface evenly- a Mappi furnace will save a third of the energy.

Energy saving

Onto the second pillar upon which Mappi's future vision rests. For years now, thanks to the company's exclusive innovations, patents and dedicated software, as well as its use of materials and





construction solutions of supreme excellence, Mappi furnaces consume significantly less. That's also owing to their ability to be quickly switched off - and remain off overnight. This is practically impossible for a traditional furnace, as anyone who owns will know, and it constitutes a noteworthy saving that's repeated daily and over years.

TOTAL QUALITY

As for Mappi's third pillar, i.e. total quality, every aspect of its furnaces is envisaged, designed and created with excellence always at top-of-mind. All these qualities can be found in the assembly, testing, technical assistance and customization of each feature. They're also there in the relationship between Mappi and its customers, which is never just

one between supplier and buyer but between partners. Such rigour translates into a range of furnaces that doesn't merely concern itself with consistently producing novelties but rather with producing furnaces that are made to be constantly in the lead - continuously refined and perfected, thanks also to the company's close collaboration with Siemens, leader of Industry 4.0-designed applications, which is no longer the 'horizon' but the very 'here and now' for any who wish to be leaders. This brings Mappi to its latest addition, namely the new MTH - a furnace that has a loading surface reaching 3300 x 6000 mm. Here, besides the dimensions that command our respect, the exhibited characteristics are typical of every Mappi furnace - including operational flexibility, which has both

quality and performance maintained even when there's no need to work at full load. Not only. Owing to its large size, the energy saving is even more substantial, as can easily be imagined. All this while maintaining excellent performance - the 'total quality' which closes our trio of Mappi priorities.

DESIGN EXCELLENCE

Attention to design marks another shining attribute characterizing any Mappi furnace. And here, the new MTH is no exception. Its angular lines and imposing shapes make it a lead player in many contexts. Not only.

Its LED lines, coloured to underscore and lighten the forms with a touch of novelty and accuracy, are hardly ever seen in a glass factory. Here, in summarizing Mappi's outlook on both the present and the future of the glass industry, a most appropriate catchphrase could be: 'when thinking big, think Mappi!' where 'thinking big' refers not only to size but, above all, to planning, vision, the ability to envisage the future and also anticipate it while having the comportment of a leader. More than ever it's these core values that make the difference today.

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MAPP
BEYOND GLASS PERFECTION

Via Alfredo Fieramonti
04012 Cisterna di Latina (LT) - Italy
Tel.: +39-06-96873284
E-mail: info@mappi.it
www.mappi.it

