

First CelSian-NCNG Glass Technology course in the UK

Having successfully organised sessions throughout mainland Europe, the USA, South America and Asia, the CelSian-NCNG International Glass Technology Course was recently held for the first time in the UK. Part of the Society of Glass Technology centenary celebrations and organised in collaboration with Neil Simpson, the five day course was organised at the SGT/British Glass building in Chapeltown, near Sheffield, a central location for the local glass industry.

The course brought together 24 participants representing glass producers and suppliers to the glass industry, with the majority of participants (18) coming from the UK, the others joining from Italy, the USA and Germany. Over five days in late February/early March, delegates were provided with in-depth knowledge and practical examples relating to different aspects of glass technology, starting with raw materials and finishing with the formed product, with emphasis on glass melting technology, furnaces, refractories, emissions, recycling, defects and the relationship between glass structure and properties.

Dave Dalton, Chief Executive Officer of British Glass, gave a welcome address, emphasising the importance of knowledge transfer and collaboration in the glass industry. In addition, a tour of DSF Refractories & Minerals Ltd in Newhaven, Derbyshire was organised, providing delegates with an opportunity to learn more about the production of refractories and their practical application. A tour of the Glass Technology Services (GTS) laboratories was also organised, highlighting the tools and facilities available for glass analysis and development, while illustrating some of the topics covered during the course. There was also an opportunity to see a stack testing van, complementing the emissions tutorial. And because the creation of a close-knit atmosphere is another important component of this training meeting, two social events were organised in Sheffield city centre, where attendees were afforded the opportunity to network with one another, as well as with this session's teachers, Mathieu Hubert and Neil Simpson.

"This was the first time we have organised the course in the UK and I was pleased to see a full room, bringing together attendees with different levels of experience in the glass industry and coming from different parts of the production chain" Mathieu Hubert commented. "The course went really well, in a good atmosphere and we have received a lot of positive feedback. I would like to thank everyone who helped with the course's organisation, starting with Neil Simpson, who was co-organiser with CelSian. The tour of DSF was very interesting and I thank the company for opening its doors



Course participants outside the SGT/GTS/British Glass building at Chapeltown, Sheffield.

to us and letting us see a different side of glass production. I would also like to thank Dave Dalton at British Glass and the people at GTS for welcoming us to their facilities, as well as Christine Brown, Lisa Fearn and others at the SGT for welcoming us, helping us with the meeting's organisation and taking care of our delegates."

"When CelSian initially asked me to support this event, due to its centenary year, the SGT seemed the logical venue because of its geographical location, combined with the resources of GTS, British Glass and SGT" Neil Simpson added. "While most companies represented have contact at some level, it was good for attendees to see first-hand the facilities available in the UK, with opportunities for them to meet Dave Dalton and network with his British Glass/GTS teams. The tour of DSF, hosted by Neale Parkin and his team was excellent, taking us from raw materials/mould preparation through drying, firing and final treatment. This, together with a supporting lecture on mullite, gave a true practical

component to complement the morning's lectures."

After their five days in Sheffield, delegates were provided with their own copies of the CelSian-NCNG glass technology handbook, allowing them to consult this valuable information as required in the future. ■



All delegates receive their own copy of the CelSian-NCNG glass technology handbook.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

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The next CelSian-NCNG Glass Technology course will be organised on 20-24 June 2016 in Toledo, Ohio, USA and again on 26-30 September 2016 in Eindhoven. Further information and registration forms can be found at www.glasstrend.nl, tab 'Events and Agenda'.