



Press release

Verallia's Vauxrot glass plant celebrates its furnace rebuild

January 26, 2018 - The teams at Verallia's Vauxrot glass plant (Aisne, France) today celebrated the lighting of the new furnace during the ignition "match" ceremony, a glassmaking tradition. After ten days or so, the furnace will 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 €24m investment, Verallia reaffirms its commitment to sustain and modernize its northern French site, a champion in the field of quick color and model changes, thanks to its high expertise in manufacturing complex glassware.

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% fuel-powered installation.

Work has also been carried out on the hot and cold ends to improve working conditions: soundproofing of the hot-end cabin and wide use of hoists to reduce the carrying of heavy loads.

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 color. 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](#), thirty kilometers 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 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.

About Verallia - 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 5 technical centres and 13 product development centres) and local customer relationships in all regions. In 2016, Verallia achieved net sales of EUR2.4bn.

For more information: www.verallia.com

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