

## CHINA

# AAM Study Cites Impact of Explosive Growth in Chinese Glass Production

**S**ince 2003, glass production in China has increased by more than \$576 million—more than 67 percent—according to a recent study titled *University Through the Chinese Looking Glass: Subsidies to China's Glass Industry from 2004-08*, by Dr. Usha Haley of Harvard.

Prepared by the Economic Policy In-

stitute (EPI) with support from the Alliance for American Manufacturing (AAM), the study cites the Chinese glass industry's three-fold increase in exports to the United States from 2000 to 2008. The U.S. trade deficit with China on glass also tripled in the same period.

The report shows that China's glass and glass-products industry received

total subsidies approximating at least \$30.29 billion from 2004 to 2008. These subsidies spanned heavy oil, coal, electricity and soda ash and have reached about 35 percent of gross industrial output value of glass in 2008.

Citing massive increases in Chinese glass production and exports during the current decade, AAM also urged the

## GERMANY

# CRL of Europe Relocates German Headquarters to New Facility near Stuttgart

**L**os Angeles-based C.R. Laurence Co. Inc. (CRL) has opened a new 36,000-square-foot facility in Ilsfeld, Germany, north of Stuttgart. Formerly located in Bad Wimpfen, the new location brings the products and services closer to Stuttgart.

"This is an important segment of our European strategy," says Donald E. Friese, chairperson and chief executive officer. "We want to offer our European customers the same wide range of products we currently provide North America and Australia. We also plan to present our 'rapid customization' process to the European market, providing customers with products built to their specifications, with lead times similar to 'off-the-shelf' products. As we move forward, we plan to focus a great deal on Europe as an opportunity for growth."

The new facility will enable CRL to stock a much larger inventory of products for European customers, and will also feature new shipping equipment and computer systems for quick delivery. Customers also will be able to pick



**CRL's new German headquarters will allow the company to stock more inventory for European customers.**

up orders onsite. A showroom will display new products, including full size working models of architectural hardware products, frameless shower door hardware, glass railing systems, all-glass storefront systems, architectural metals and glazing supplies and tools.

"We consider our global strategy to be very important to the future of this company," Friese adds. "This year has been one of tremendous growth for CRL as we continue to make substantial investments in facilities in

both the UK and Germany. After the acquisition of Ebor Group Holdings, Ltd. (Ebor) in Manchester, England, we immediately began construction on a 71,000-square-foot facility, in Rochdale. We believe that the expansion of these facilities will make CRL one of the best suppliers to the glazing industry in Europe with over 137,000 square feet of floor space dedicated to distribution of our extensive line of products."

► [www.crlaurence.com](http://www.crlaurence.com)

Obama administration to address the Chinese government's subsidies to its domestic glass industry at a meeting with its Chinese counterparts on trade issues.

In a letter to Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke and U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk, AAM urged the administration to "address the significant and market-distorting subsidization by the Chinese government of its domestic glass industry" at the Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT), which took place October 29 in Hangzhou, China.

"Our domestic glass industry is the most efficient in the world," the letter stated, "but it cannot compete against production that is heavily subsidized by the Chinese government," adding that the global overcapacity of glass products created by the explosive growth in Chinese production has led to U.S. "plant closings and thousands of lost jobs."

"Dr. Haley's study is important because it shows the type of competition U.S. companies are up against, in particular the massive subsidized Chinese products received," AAM executive director Scott Paul tells USGlass. "We want to show government officials that even the most efficient U.S. glass producer will have a hard time competing against subsidized glass products from China."

Paul adds, "We encourage all glass companies to get in touch with their Congress people and make sure that they see this study and ask that they bring it before the Obama administration and work to make it a priority."

As an example of what U.S. glass companies are facing, Paul points to the construction of the new World Trade Center tower, which will include Chinese-made glass (see April 2009 USGlass, page 30, for related article). While a number of U.S. glass companies, including Pittsburgh-

based PPG Industries, spent months working with the tower architects to plan and develop a new kind of glass for floors one through 20 none were awarded the contract to make the glass.

Organizations, such as the United Steelworkers (USW), have applauded the AAM for its actions.

From 2001 to 2008 the U.S. glass in-

dustry lost almost 40,000 jobs, a decrease of nearly 30 percent according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

"With unemployment threatening to exceed 10 percent, the need to challenge the Chinese government's subsidies to its domestic glass industry is essential to prevent further damage to our glass industry, workers and economy," adds Paul.

## RUSSIA

# Guardian Celebrates New Russian Float Glass


**G**uardian Industries celebrated the grand opening of its new float glass facility in Ryazan, Russia, in September with an open house for federal and local officials, customers, suppliers and employees. Ryazan Governor Oleg Ivanovich Kovalev, former Governor Georgy Shpak and Mayor Oleg Vladimirovich Shishov joined more than 350 guests for the event.

The Ryazan plant produces 750 metric tons of float glass per day. Production is targeted toward commercial and residential construction. According to the company announcement, the plant also features a technologically advanced coating machine, which enables it to manufacture a variety of high-performance coated glass products specifically designed to meet the needs of Guardian's Russian customers, and those of neighboring countries.

Guardian says its investment in Russia is a natural progression following investments in Central and Eastern Europe. It is also the first step in plans for continued growth in the country.

"Ryazan is Guardian's initial entry into the region," says Russ Ebeid, chairman of the board and president of Guardian's Glass Group. "The decision to build in Ryazan fits with our global strategy and our marketing considerations. We are so confident in the opportunities in Russia that we are already in the very early days of planning a second float glass plant in Rostov in Southeast Russia."

"First we had to understand the business and governmental circumstances that are unique in Russia. We are grateful to have received outstanding support from Ryazan's government officials in doing just that," says Lajos Sapi, Guardian group vice president for Central and Eastern Europe. He adds, "Our plant in Ryazan, with the latest float glass production technology and our wide variety of coatings, can supply quality products on time over the long term. We are looking forward to a great future in Ryazan and Russia."

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