

Joint venture promotes fully automatic glass forming

Bottero and Tiama have pooled their know-how in process automation and AI to create GlassFORM.ai, an independent company developing solutions for data-driven process automation.



Marco Tecchio, CEO of Bottero Group.



Benoit Burin Des Roziers, CEO of Tiama.

Provider of glass packaging inspection and quality control solutions Tiama and manufacturer of processing machinery Bottero have been co-operating for several years. Based in Rovereto, Trento, Italy, their joint venture marries Bottero's process knowledge with Tiama's sensor expertise to offer a fully functional, open protocol digital platform designed to help glassmakers improve their productivity.

Today's glass market is increasingly driven by the need for higher production efficiency, reduced environmental impact and increased overall safety for operators. Acquiring/building know-how is becoming a challenge: the industry is losing experienced personnel while new technologies require the development of specific competencies. Bottero and Tiama believe that automation built on data processing is the key to answer to such emerging needs.

In this new, highly demanding context, GlassFORM.ai aims to:

- Provide solutions to automatically manage the forming process

according to the production targets.

- Contain environmental impacts through energy saving, light-weighting and resource optimisation.
- Reduce exposure of operators to machine adjustments via automatic controls
- Compensate the loss in process know-how leveraging on the deployment of Artificial Intelligence technologies.

Universal application

Strong connections with Trentino Sviluppo (the agency of Provincia Autonoma di Trento promoting a sustainable development in Trentino area) and the Centre for Digital Industry of FBK (Fondazione Bruno Kessler – a research institute active in the fields of scientific, technological and human sciences) in the framework of the 'Manifattura Project' [to transform a historic tobacco facility in Italy into an innovation hub for green building, renewable energy and environmental technology], are a plus for establishing stable relationships with local industries

and research centres, with the aim of identifying common R&D projects and joint development activities.

All GlassFORM.ai solutions are designed and developed to be universally applied, open to all IS machines and sensors in the market. The starting point of the GlassFORM.ai development portfolio will be based on products and solutions already available, where edge technologies (i.e. big data and machine learning) have been successfully implemented, exploiting the results achieved in other industrial segments. Examples of the first solutions to be available are the automatic management of gob forming operations and the integration of cold/hot end data to optimally drive process stability and accuracy.

Demand for automation

"According to our discussions with all our customers, the automatization of the glass containers process is becoming a key priority to meet all the current challenges," said Benoit Burin Des Roziers, CEO of Tiama. "Creating an independent co-enterprise with Bottero to provide universal and plug&play solutions appeared to us obvious long time ago. Tiama is now very happy to transform long discussions in reality with GlassFORM.ai. This industry trend is obvious in many segments and Tiama feels extremely committed to contribute to deliver very competitive solutions to all its Customers. Our Glass Containers segment cannot be competitive without such solutions, and we want to contribute strongly."

Bottero and GlassFORM.ai CEO Marco Tecchio responded: "Automation is today of paramount importance in the glass processing industry and Bottero products have always been ahead with innovative solutions leveraging machine learning and artificial intelligence. This joint venture with Tiama is our next strategic step in order to fully automatise the glass forming process. Thanks to Tiama's leadership in the inspection and quality control systems and our in-depth knowledge in IS machine and forming process, GlassFORM.ai will be a leading player in our industry, committed to deliver the best solutions for our customers." ●

Further information:

GlassFORM.ai Spa., Rovereto, Italy
tel: +39 0464 443348
email: marketing@glassform.ai
web: www.glassform.ai

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