



Press Release

Arques, January 5th 2010

Arc International announces the sale of its Spanish plant to the local management

Last November 18, the Group informed the employees and the management of this plant that it would not invest in the rebuilding of the two furnaces after they reach the end of their lifecycle (In 2011 for Furnace 2 and in 2013 for Furnace 1).

This difficult decision was the consequence of decreased demand on the European tableware market, leading to industrial overcapacity in this region, where the Arques (France) site alone can meet the demand for sodocalcic and opal glass.

Subsequent to this announcement and since no external solution could be found to guarantee the future of Vicrila and its employees, Luis Fernandez, Managing Director, and 2 other managers have proposed a Management Buy Out (MBO) of the company

This project was completed on December 30 as an agreement was signed between the Spanish management team and Arc International with the support of the local Basque and Central Governments.

According to the agreement's conditions, the Group :

- will keep on using Vicrila production capacities as part of a sourcing contract up to 2011 for Furnace 2 and up to 2013 in a decreasing way for Furnace 1.
- will provide technical assistance to the new company till the end of the sourcing contract.

Guillaume de Fougères, Chairman of the Board Arc International attended the signature of the contract and declared: "*I am pleased we could come up with a solution that guarantees the sustainability of this site in the respect of our Group's social values. Luis Fernandez and his team are renowned businessmen who will be able to define the business model of the new company in relation with Arc International and its other clients. I would like to emphasize the role of the Basque and Central Governments which supported the project from the beginning. I wish Vicrila and its employees all the best for the future.*"

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About Arc International, l'Art de la Table* 1825

Arc International employs 13, 000 people worldwide including 8500 in France. The Group, whose head office is located in Arques, in the French Pas-de-Calais region, achieved a turnover of 1.2 billion Euros in 2008. Armed with its know how in glassware, it developed globally and diversified its activities through the integration of materials other than glass. Today, it markets a full range of tableware products in more than 160 countries.

The Group covers the Consumer Goods and Food Service markets through a portfolio of brands, Luminarc®, Arcoroc®, Cristal d'Arques® Paris, Pyrex®**and Chef & Sommelier. For more than 40 years the Group has also been addressing professional customers – industrialists, traders, manufacturers of semi-finished and finished products, and service providers – by offering them tailored-made solutions to meet their specific requirements (for industry, advertising, premiums and customer loyalty programmes).

Arc International is present in five continents with production sites (France, USA, China, UAE), distribution subsidiaries (France, US, Spain, Australia, Mexico, Brazil, Japan) and sales offices. Finally, the Group has adopted a strategy of sustainable development in order to balance economic requirements, social responsibility and respect for the environment, and joined the U.N.'s Global Com pact in 2003.

* Tableware

** Pyrex® is a trademark of Corning Inc., licensed by Arc International Cookware SAS in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa

About Vidreria Y Cristaleria De Lamiaco S.A.

The company Vicrila was founded in 1890 and is dedicated since its origin to the manufacture of glass.

It employs directly 350 people today and provides a significant amount of indirect employment in its area of influence where it is the major player. It is a modern company recognized and appreciated in its environment, and has received numerous awards for its advanced and innovative management system and especially in the field of safety. It is certified ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and OSHAS.

Its participation in the integration of students to the company and its management in mini companies and orientation towards objectives are references, its process of transformation has been studied in many business schools and received recognition in 2008 for European management according to EFQM.

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