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PRINT VERSION

Introduction to the Project

CiNER Glass UK is proposing to build a glass container manufacturing facility which utilises recycled glass, located within the Rassau Industrial Estate in Ebbw Vale. The project has the potential to be one of the largest single investments in Wales for some considerable time, and would create job opportunities and wider economic benefits for generations to come.

Who is CiNER Glass?

CiNER Glass Ltd is a 100% family-owned business, headquartered in London and a major international conglomerate. This project would be our biggest new build investment outside Turkey to date and is part of a significant expansion programme across Europe and the USA. CiNER is also the world's number one producer of natural soda ash, a key raw material in the production of glass.

If our plans receive the necessary planning approval, CiNER Glass intends to supply glass bottles to food and beverage producers across the UK from 2024 when the facility would begin operation.

Why Wales?

South Wales is well positioned to serve the existing UK operations of our customers.

There are no major container glass production manufacturers in Wales. In fact, there are none within a 300km (186 mile) radius of South East Wales. Our intention is to get as close to our customers as possible to cut the economic and environmental costs of transporting glass.

With good access to road and port infrastructure and a skilled local workforce makes Wales an obvious choice for CiNER's expansion. The UK has high volumes of imports of container glass. Wales is recognised as one of the world's leading recyclers, but also exports a large proportion of its recycled glass. This recycled glass is also used in the construction industry.

Our vision is to build a centre of engineering excellence in glass technology in Wales, which can compete with the best in the world.

What are we consulting on?

CiNER Glass propose to construct and operate a glass container manufacturing facility within the Rassau Industrial Estate, to the north of Ebbw Vale, Blaenau Gwent, South Wales.

The facility, referred to in the planning documents as “Dragon Glass Bottle Manufacturing Facility”, would consist of a four-part operation for the production of glass containers: melting and forming; the handling of raw materials; inspection and packaging and warehousing.

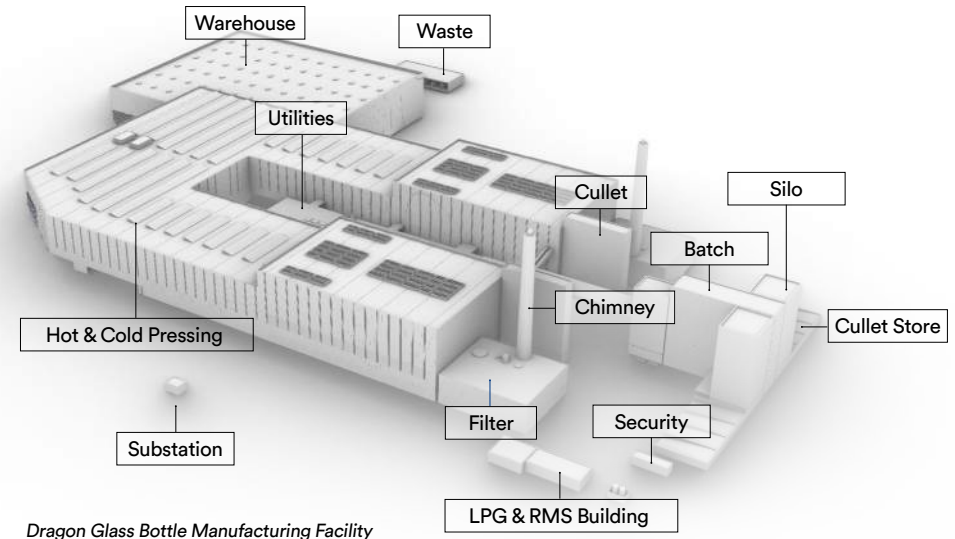
The plant would consist of two glass manufacturing furnaces and associated chimney stacks with accompanying buildings, cullet (recycled glass) storage, raw material silos, waste stores, external hardstanding, attenuation ponds for the control of surface water, landscape planting, secure boundary fencing and vehicle and cycle parking including electric charging points.

According to the environmental and air quality modelling it has been calculated that the chimney stacks would be approximately 75m high with the cullet buildings, stores, batch building and silos, approximately 40m in height.

Due to the nature of the glass furnaces, the facility will operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The proposed development would be constructed over a period of approximately four years. The first phase of construction is proposed to commence in 2022 following approval of the planning application and lasting around two years.

Construction of a second furnace will be undertaken alongside the operational aspects of the first furnace. The facility would then become fully operational by 2026 with both glass making furnaces in operation.



Location

The proposed development would cover a total area of 21.5ha (53.13 acres) on a vacant plot within the Rassau Industrial Estate, on its eastern edge. There are built facilities of the industrial estate to the north, south and west, to the east is open grassland leading to Carno Reservoir.

The site is allocated within the Ebbw Vale Enterprise Zone and occupies a strategic location adjacent to the A465 Heads of the Valleys Road in the heart of the South Wales Valleys, approximately 700m to the north of Rassau village and 3km (1.9m) north of Ebbw Vale town centre.

The site itself was developed during the original works on the industrial estate, where an earthworks plateau was created with an access road for utilities entering the site. The area is overgrown and consists of grassland, scrub and some woodland.

The estate currently comprises of purpose-built light industrial / manufacturing units with ancillary office accommodation. There are existing tall structures next to the proposed site including two wind turbines, with permission granted for a third; existing electricity pylons and industrial units with associated tall chimney stacks.

The industrial estate is situated on the foot slopes of Mynydd Llangynidr, approximately 450m south of the Brecon Beacons National Park (BBNP) boundary.

The site is currently owned by Welsh Government and Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC) and will be purchased by CiNER Glass subject to planning approval being granted.

Environmental Impact Assessment

The scheme has been deemed an EIA development and will be supported by an Environmental Statement (ES) which outlines the construction and operational impacts. The scope of the ES has been consulted and agreed upon by BGCBC.

Glass production and the environment

Glass is infinitely recyclable, it is a green product which has an exciting and sustainable future and can play an essential role in creating a circular economy. in Wales.

We are committed to observing all current legislation on improving the environment and making a direct contribution to reaching the UK net-zero emissions target. We want to contribute to the low carbon energy production, green tech and net zero initiatives being developed by the Welsh and UK Governments.

We think it is important to cut the number of miles bottles have to travel to reach the customer. From Rassau, it is envisaged that our bottles will not have to travel more than 200 miles to reach their intended destination.

We believe, that as a country, Wales could collect more of its recyclable glass. Our aim is to be able to use this recycled glass and avoid the necessity for it to travel long distances.

The use of recycled glass makes a vital contribution to cutting energy consumption by at least a fifth, as recycled glass melts at a lower temperature.

The new facility would use its waste heat for hot water generation, general heating and cooling of the plant.

We also want to see an innovative glass Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) developed across the whole of Wales. This would allow the recycling process to be much easier and provide higher quality recycled glass. This scheme would be the first in the UK and one of the first in Europe.

Transport

The site has been selected for its excellent transport links, including the upgrade works on the A465 Heads of the Valleys Road, access to the M4 and wider regional connectivity plus its close proximity to the skilled workforce of the local area.

We aim to work with local material suppliers to reduce the transportation distances and associated emissions from freight. We will also develop strategies to encourage the use of low carbon transport modes, including active and public transport, a strategy for electric vehicle charging and sufficient cycle parking, in order to reduce emissions from transport.

Once operational, the facility will require delivery of raw materials to the site including sand and soda ash to produce glass alongside other raw materials required for the production process, including the use of recycled glass.

The facility will also need to transport the finished product of glass bottles and containers. The existing industrial estate road network and the adjacent A465 provides sufficient capacity to accommodate these transport requirements.

As viable low emission solutions for HGVs such as electric, biomethane and hydrogen become available, we will be looking at options to adopt these technologies at scale in our transport arrangements.

Jobs & Training

CiNER Glass intend to harness the social value of this proposed development in making a positive and long-term contribution to the future of Wales. Once fully operational, our Ebbw Vale plant will directly employ around **600 people**. There would also be significant opportunities in-directly within the supply chain and with **400 – 500 jobs created** during the construction phase of the project, with several hundred people working on site during the peak of construction.

We are committed to providing training and employment opportunities for local people. We plan to develop a comprehensive programme of training and apprenticeships in order to build the workforce required to run our new facility at Rassau. We will also provide internships.

Our preferred strategy is to employ people from the local community who do not have preconceived ideas about ‘old fashioned’ glass manufacturing, training them to become future glass experts.

Glass production is a modern and technically advanced industry, the process requires highly skilled and qualified people. As part of our training programme, many of our new employees will have the opportunity to learn from experienced staff working at our Park Cam glass production plant in Bilecik, Turkey.

We want to work constructively in partnership with the Welsh and UK Governments as well as other relevant stakeholders, such as local education institutions and organisations including Job Centre Plus, Careers Wales and others.

The hope is that the size and scale of this project can act as a catalyst, to provide further innovation and investment in the Valleys and across Wales. How is this project being funded?

This new facility would cost around £350m to complete. The project will be funded by a combination of loans and funding from the CiNER Group, invested in order to meet the growing demand for glass containers in the UK market.

We have applied to the Welsh Government for a grant to facilitate the costs that would be incurred for abnormal costs related to developing the proposed site and we have applied to the Economic Futures Fund, also administered by the Welsh Government.

How is this project being funded?

This new facility would cost around £350m to complete and we are committed to using local sub-contractors wherever possible. The project will be funded by the CiNER Group, invested in order to meet the growing demand for glass containers in the UK market.

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Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why do you want to come to build a glass bottle manufacturing and recycling factory in South Wales?

This area has all the right conditions for us to make a substantial and long-term investment. Currently Wales has to import all of its container glass. This is costly and most importantly environmentally unsustainable.

2. What is your experience and track record in glass bottle manufacturing and recycling?

We already supply bottles to the UK food and beverage industry.

Our intention is to get as close to the customer to cut the economic and environmental costs of transporting glass.

3. What will the glass you make here be used for?

We will make wine and beer bottles for the UK food and drinks industry.

We already have several customers close by we need to supply in the region.

Our equipment can produce containers and bottles of most shapes and sizes. At full capacity we hope to have the ability to produce in total either 4 million beer bottles or two million wine bottles a day. In total this amounts to around 900 tons of glass each day.

4. What is the size and nature of your investment?

Our planned investment in Wales amounts to a total of around £350m.

We aim to bring innovation and cutting-edge technology to revolutionise how glass will be produced in the UK in the future.

5. What are Ciner Glass' ambitions to expand elsewhere in Europe?

We are a UK headquartered business with ambitious plans for international expansion. We have just announced our plans for a new plant in Belgium.

In our judgement this is the right time to expand our operations in Europe. In Turkey we are the second biggest glass producer.

6. How many jobs will be created?

Around 600 jobs will be created directly at the glass production and recycling facility when it is fully operational.

We will also need a network of subcontractors from all over Wales to supply us with large amounts recycled glass on a regular basis. Ciner Glass wants to play a constructive role in supporting the future prosperity of Wales and the UK.

7. Will you be employing local people? What sort of training will you provide? Will you be providing apprenticeships?

Ciner Glass is committed to providing local people with training and development opportunities. We plan to develop a comprehensive programme of training and apprenticeships in order to build the workforce required to run our new facility at Rassau.

In Turkey, we took the decision to employ only a small percentage of our staff with previous experience in the glass industry but decided to train for ourselves the hundreds of people we needed from the local area. We will do the same here in Wales.

Ciner Glass needs highly skilled engineers drawn from across many technical disciplines, including graduates of STEM subjects. We aim to work in partnership with Welsh universities, colleges and other skills providers.

8. How can the local community benefit from this investment?

We believe our presence can help boost economic regeneration across the Valleys for many years to come. The operation of the plant in Blaenau Gwent is planned for an initial thirty years but it is designed to last for up to sixty years.

We will require a wide range of services which can only be supplied locally. It is our intention to employ local companies to help develop and service the site.

9. What is your commitment to addressing local people's concerns?

We want to work closely with local people and listen to their concerns.

Some Blaenau Gwent councillors visited Turkey to inspect our site there in February 2020.

10. What is your track record as a responsible employer?

Ciner Glass is a responsible employer and is dedicated to the highest safety standards. We pride ourselves on our relations with our employees and whether in the USA or Turkey, work closely with all labour unions.

We are also proud of our record of working with the local community in Turkey which is based near our glass production facility.

11. Can you explain why glass is an environmentally friendly material?

Glass is infinitely recyclable and carbon friendly. It is a green product which has an exciting and sustainable future.

12. How environmentally sustainable will this manufacturing and recycling facility be?

Most of the glass used in the UK has to travel thousands of miles to reach consumers. This is a practice which is wasteful and costly. Our bottles will only have to travel a maximum of 150 miles to reach their intended destination. We also want to explore how to use heat created by the glassmaking process to produce additional energy which could be made available to heat local homes.

13. How important is using recycled glass to your plans? How much recycled glass will you use?

Our glassmaking process is able to use 100% recycled glass.

As a country, Wales currently collects 60% of its recyclable glass. Our aim is to be able to use this percentage and more in the future. We also want to see the development of an innovative glass Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) across the whole of Wales. This scheme would be the first in the UK and one of the first in Europe.

14. Why does using recycled glass cut energy consumption?

The use of recycled glass makes a vital contribution to cutting energy consumption by at least a fifth, as recycled glass melts at a lower temperature.

Glass is traditionally melted at 1500 degrees. Recycled glass melts at 1200 degrees.

15. Has Ciner Glass made any commitment to net zero emissions by 2030 or 2050?

Ciner Glass is committed to observing all current legislation on improving the environment and making a direct contribution to reaching the UK net-zero emissions target.

That's why we want to contribute to the low carbon energy production, green tech and net zero initiatives being developed by the Welsh and UK Governments.

How to respond to this consultation

If you would like to respond to our proposals, either click on the link in the virtual exhibition or alternatively you can respond in the following ways.

Email us at:

cinerwales@secnewgate.uk

Write to us at:

**FREEPOST REF: RTRB-LUJJ-AGBY
CiNER Wales Consultation
c/o SEC NEWGATE UK,
Skylight City Tower, 50 Basinghall
Street, London EC2V 5DE.**

If you have any further questions or need help in submitting your response, please telephone the project during working hours, freephone:
0800 035 3440

This 28-day public consultation is open for comments until:
Thursday 19 August 2021 23:59