



## The Future of Glass Strength – An Industry-Changing Symposium

**Thursday, June 4, 2009 – Vancouver, BC**

The issue of glass strength has been coming to the forefront in our industry for the last four years, ever since our first student strength contest in 2005. Interest is increasing around the world as glassmakers come to the realization that achieving greater strength for their products could, in fact, be a game-changer, opening up new vistas of products and applications they had never conceived of in the past. Several companies have begun to focus on this issue and we're beginning to see results.

The design strength of common glass products, such as windows, bottles, TV and LCD displays, tableware, is only .05 percent of the intrinsic strength of glass measured in the laboratory. It is tantalizing to speculate on how many more ways glass could serve society if even 20 percent of its intrinsic strength could be used in all glass products.

An innovative symposium – one focused on answering the question of how do we better utilize the intrinsic strength of glass – is being held on Thursday, June 4, at the PACRIM8 meeting in Vancouver, B.C. Canada, (PACRIM8 runs May 31–June 5, 2009). Sponsors for this symposium are the Glass Manufacturing Industry Council, the International Commission on Glass and TNO. The objective of the symposium is to bring together experts in the field of glass strength to identify and prioritize research areas

that will reduce the gap between the useable and inherent strength of glass.

The symposium will consist of eight invited talks featuring experts from industry and academia. The format will not be that of a traditional technical meeting.

Initially, the speakers will be discussing, based on their fields of expertise, the scientific deficiencies in our understanding of glass, and the potential impact which higher strength glass could have in various industries.

Then, I expect that about half of the 40-minute presentations will involve “deep dive” discussions with audience participation.

The symposium wrap-up will consist of a round table discussion, also including the audience with audience participation. The objective of the wrap-up will be to obtain consensus on the most fruitful areas of glass strength research.

We need a broad cross section of individuals in attendance, for whom the strength of glass is important. It is especially important to have participation from those that can bring a scientific perspective related to glass products with which they are currently associated. We also need experts to elaborate on what current needs could be met today in their industries if higher-strength glass was available. Only broad participation can provide the “critical mass” of support we need to get movement on the research projects that have the highest potential of revolutionizing the glass industry.

Who should attend this conference? Here are some of the people that come to mind:

- Glass company senior technical personnel with an interest in broadening their product range and capabilities.

- Engineers, researchers and scientists with an interest in glass strength from glass companies, national labs, universities and government agencies.

- Product development specialists from industries using glass whose products might acquire added-value if glass were stronger: architects, automobile designers, bottlers, solar and wind energy specialists; chemical, ballistics, nuclear, aviation, space, oceanography personnel, etc.

Registration for this symposium is accomplished online at [www.ceramics.org/meetings/pacrim8](http://www.ceramics.org/meetings/pacrim8). Please note: You can register for the entire PACRIM8 program or for just this one-day symposium.

Please also confirm your registration to the GMIC by contacting Donna Ransom at 614-523-3033 or [dransom@gmic.org](mailto:dransom@gmic.org).

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