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## **Michele Blackburn Selected as Recipient of 2011 Hotbels BTU Award**

The 26<sup>th</sup> Hotbels Glass Industry Seminar was held in Lexington, Kentucky, USA on April 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> and featured a number of informative presentations by glass industry suppliers. This year's conference was especially successful in light of the current economic environment; multiple representatives from 29 glass production facilities were in attendance, in addition to attendees from 27 organizations that supply products and services to the glass industry.

One highlight of each Hotbels seminar is the presentation of the BTU (Business & Technology United) award. This annual award was established in 2007 in order to recognize an individual who has contributed to the evolution of Hotbels and the education of the glass industry.

This year's BTU award was presented to Michele Blackburn. Michele joined Saint Gobain SEFPRO with the Corhart Refractories organization in 1990 shortly after graduating from Rutgers University and receiving her Bachelor of Science degree in Ceramic Engineering. She later earned an MBA from West Virginia Wesleyan College. During her 21 years in SEFPRO, she has worked in a variety of engineering, quality management and commercial positions. She is currently the SEFPRO North American Commercial Director and Corhart Sales Director.

Michele was chosen to receive the 2011 BTU for her contributions to the glass industry and also to Hotbels, where she has authored and delivered many presentations over the years, as well as provided several suggestions for keynote speakers.

She joins a distinguished group of previous BTU recipients including:

- 2007: C. Philip Ross, Glass Industry Consulting International



**Michele Blackburn – 2011 BTU Award Recipient:**  
 Left to right: George Kopsler – Hotwork-USA,  
 Tom Graham – Hotwork-USA,  
 Michele Blackburn – Saint-Gobain SEFPRO,  
 Bob Chambers – Fosbel



**BTU Award Recipients:**  
 Left to right: George Kopsler, John Brown (2010),  
 Mike Nelson (2008), Phil Ross (2007),  
 Michele Blackburn (2011), Bob Chambers,  
 and Doug Davis (2009)

- 2008: Michael A. Nelson, Corhart Refractories
- 2009: Dr. Douglas H. Davis, Toledo Engineering Company (TECO)
- 2010: John T. Brown, Corning Inc., and GMIC

**About Hotbels:** The Hotbels Glass Industry Seminar is sponsored by Hotwork-USA and Fosbel and is held in Lexington, Kentucky in April each year. The seminar consists of two days of presentations and activities that provide a forum for sharing innovations in engineering and technology throughout the glass industry. The BTU (Business & Technology United) award was established by the Hotbels Seminar Committee to recognize key contributors to Hotbels and the glass industry. The award was first presented in 2007 and is presented each year at the Hotbels Seminar. To learn more about Hotbels and the BTU Award, visit [www.hotbels.com](http://www.hotbels.com), or contact Hotwork or Fosbel via email at [Hotwork@hotwork.com](mailto:Hotwork@hotwork.com) or [Fosbel.inc@fosbel.com](mailto:Fosbel.inc@fosbel.com).