

Glafo will move to Växjö University

- Agreement signed, move – summer 2004



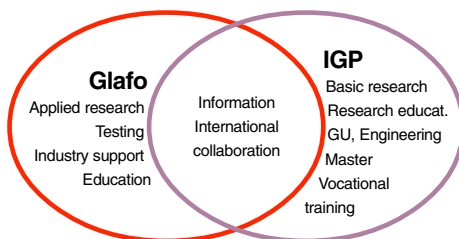
At a press conference in Växjö, Sweden on August 18th 2003, Stellan Persson, MD Glafo and Lars Andersson, appointed Vice chancellor at Växjö University, signed an agreement. The agreement concerns the building of a joint research, education and development platform for glass. It is an agreement for four years and include that Glafo will move to the University campus.

Since 1999 Glafo and Växjö University has collaborated around the building of a glass platform at Växjö University.

The work has progressed through an appointment of a professor in glass technology at Växjö University, the initiation of a couple of glass courses, for example in glass technology and glass design as well as joint projects.

- We have to make a long term venture to support the glass industry, said Lars Andersson.

Research and education in glass *Glass, Chemistry and Processing technology, Glass design*



Lars Andersson outlined how the collaboration between Glafo and Växjö University will be structured.

This is what we do now by creating a joint research, education, and development environment.

Glafo and Växjö University will have a joint responsibility for the development of the venture. This will take place in a council with members from Glafo, Växjö University and the glass industry.

However, Glafo will still remain its own juridical person.

The Glass Research Institute

Glafo, located in Växjö, Sweden was founded in 1945 and is working with applied research, development and education. It is the only glass research institute in Scandinavia.



Lars Åke Lagrell, County governor of Kronoberg county told that the County board has promised 450 000 SEK per year during a three year period as a part of their investment for the future. The money is targeted at strengthening the design education with an appointment of a professorship.

The activities of Glafo are based on demands from the guarantors, mainly from the European glass industry.

It is important to make a real investment now, when the manual glass industry is having troubles, said Stellan Persson. This is true not only for Sweden but the whole Western World. This investment is very positive for the glass industry.

We will be able to develop new projects around glass where we use Glafo's knowledge of the material and processes and the University's

knowledge on subjects as information technology, marketing and logistics.

Development

The collaboration with the university will enhance the glass profile of the region "the Kingdom of Crystal" and give better chances for the development of European glass.

Through the collaboration activities on basic and applied research, research education, vocational training, testing and industry support will be co-ordinated.

Financing

By sharing locations and this agreement Glafo and Växjö University show that this is a serious investment in the future of glass development. This will give new opportunities to approach research financiers that have requested this development in order to finance projects.

During a four-year period Växjö University will subsidize the rent for Glafo at campus.

Besides this the "Sparbanksstiftelsen Kronan" has granted 7 million SEK during four years for a professor and a doctoral candidate in glass and process technology.

The County board of Kronoberg County will contribute with almost 1,5 million SEK targeted at a professor and doctoral candidate in glass design.

The government has given 1,5 million SEK to the university to develop the new research platform.

Lars Åke Lagrell said that we have to investigate in areas where the low-wage countries cannot compete and that this investment is one of the possible things that we can do to support the regional glass industry.

Elisabeth Flygt, Glafo



The dot shows where the new location is on the university campus. The new address will be Vejdes plats 3. The photo shows the building that will be rebuilt to suit Glafo needs.

