

Press Information

KYOCERA Fineceramics Europe GmbH awarded BSFZ seal

KYOCERA Fineceramics Europe GmbH has been recognised for its innovative excellence and internal research and development activities.

Kyoto/London, 14th September 2023. The German Certification Body for Research Grants (BSFZ) has awarded KYOCERA Fineceramics Europe GmbH the BSFZ seal for their entrepreneurial innovative excellence and in-house research and development activities. This seal is testament to the company's outstanding in-house research and development activities in its role as a driver of innovation in Germany, one of the leading countries for research worldwide.

KYOCERA Fineceramics Europe GmbH sees itself as a driving force in the development of technical ceramic solutions that generate tangible added value for its customers. "We are proud to receive this recognition from the BSFZ. This can be attributed to our recently developed materials with customised profiles, which achieve highest precision thanks to our state-of-the-art production methods. Our research covers a wide range of applications, from micro to large-scale components," explains Dr Krishna Uibel, Director Innovations at Kyocera.

Technological innovation

One outstanding example of Kyocera's innovative capacity is the development of ceramic support structures for vacuum insulation glazing (VIG). Uibel explains, "Our research and development has given us a decisive competitive advantage thanks to our development of new materials and improved designs.

This achievement would not have been possible without the commitment of our colleagues in the Research and Development departments." Additionally, he underlines that the company prided itself on being an innovative supplier to its customers.

Efficient and forward-looking

Vacuum insulation glazing has the potential to significantly reduce the carbon footprint of buildings. Conventional insulating glazing is notable for its heavy glass weight, the thickness of the insulating glazing and having a space between the panes filled with expensive inert gas. On the other hand, vacuum insulation glazing has 3 to 4 millimetre thick outer panes with a gap between the panes of less than 1 millimetre. Support structures must be used in the vacuum-like space in between, the pressure of which is roughly 10^{-6} bar, to prevent the outer panes from

bending. These small supports arranged in a regular grid, also called spacers or micropillars, are made of coated ceramics, which has low thermal conductivity, high compressive strength and good tribological properties. Vacuum insulation glazing has good U_g -values, which have steadily improved in recent years to the point where values of $0.5 \text{ W}/(\text{m}^2 \text{ K})$ or better can be achieved, and can therefore meet the increasing demands on building energy efficiency. Even though vacuum insulation glazing is currently still a niche product, demand is growing steadily.

About BSFZ

The Certification Body for Research Grants (BSFZ), which operates under the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, awards the seal to companies that achieve special technological results through their research and development activities, as a result of which they are eligible for funding. BSFZ primarily strives to promote investments in the areas of research and development and thus strengthen Germany's role as a leading business hub.



BSFZ seal



For more information on Kyocera: www.kyocera.co.uk

About Kyocera

KYOCERA Fineceramics Europe GmbH is a subsidiary of KYOCERA Europe GmbH, which has been successful in Europe for over 50 years. The Kyocera Group is one of the world's leading providers of high-performance ceramic components for the technology industry, offering over 200 different ceramic materials, as well as state-of-the-art technologies and services tailored to the specific needs of each market.

KYOCERA Europe GmbH is a company of the KYOCERA Corporation headquartered in Kyoto/Japan, a world leader in semiconductor, industrial and automotive components as well as electronic components, printing and multifunction systems, and communications technology. The technology group is one of the world's most experienced manufacturers of smart energy systems, with more than 45 years of industry expertise. The Kyocera Group comprises 297 subsidiaries (31 March 2023). In England, Kyocera has a subsidiary in Frimley, KYOCERA Fineceramics Ltd. With around 81,000 employees, Kyocera generated net annual sales of around EUR 13.87 billion in the 2022/2023 fiscal year.

Kyocera is ranked 665 on Forbes magazine's 'Global 2000' list for 2022, and ranked as 'The 100 Most Sustainably Managed Companies in the World' according to the Wall Street Journal. For the second year in a row, Kyocera qualified for the Dow Jones Sustainability Index (Asia-Pacific) and acknowledged as a 'Top 100 Global Innovator 2023', being one of the world's leading innovators, for the seventh time by Clarivate.

The company also takes an active interest in cultural affairs. The Kyoto Prize, a prominent international award, is presented each year by the Inamori Foundation — established by Kyocera founder Dr Kazuo Inamori — to individuals worldwide who have contributed significantly to the scientific, cultural, and spiritual betterment of humankind (equivalent to approximately €685,000 per prize category).

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