



2001 PAC Winner

Mr. Claude Picot

Mr. Claude Picot's outstanding business acumen brought Saint-Gobain to the strategic forefront as one of the world's leading producers of glass containers.

Claude Picot was born in France on October 11, 1937 and is a graduate of the School of Mines in Paris. He also studied at INSEAD (the international business school at Fontainebleau) and the Stanford Graduate School of Business, before going to work for Corning Glass Works in 1963 as an engineer in that company's glass operations in France. After holding several positions in manufacturing, he became plant manager, and soon thereafter was made general manager.

In 1979, Mr. Picot joined Saint-Gobain and moved swiftly up the executive ladder to his present position as senior vice-president of Compagnie de Saint-Gobain. He also holds other positions in the company as chairman of Saint-Gobain Containers, chief executive officer of Saint-Gobain Emballage (packaging), and is director of several Saint-Gobain subsidiaries.

Saint-Gobain Containers is the largest glass container manufacturer in Europe, following an aggressive expansion from 1988 to 1992, and the second largest glass container manufacturer in the United States following the acquisition and subsequent merger of Ball Glass and Foster-Forbes in 1995. This growth was directed largely by Mr. Picot.

Based in Paris, Saint-Gobain is the largest glass company in the world, producing flat glass, glass containers, and fiberglass (both insulation and reinforcing fibers.) In addition, it is also the world's largest manufacturer of building materials and produces high performance plastics, piping, and abrasives, and employs more than 170,000 employees in 46 countries.

Saint-Gobain also has the distinction of being one of the world's oldest glass companies, having been established in 1665 by King Louis XIV to produce, among other things, the glass for his palace at Versailles, including the famous Hall of Mirrors.

In addition to his company responsibilities, Mr. Picot also serves as chairman of the Laboratoire National d'Essais, a public institution dedicated to testing, research, and standards, similar to the National Institute for Standards and Technology in the U.S.

Mr. Picot is married and has three children.

Claude Picot received the Phoenix Award at a formal dinner on September 28, 2001 in Philadelphia.