

## **A benefit to the environment**

### **SCHOTT is the only manufacturer in the world to produce a glass ceramic cooktop without the toxic heavy metals arsenic and antimony**

**Mainz, 7th September 2009.** SCHOTT CERAN® has developed the only glass ceramic cooktop in the world without the toxic heavy metals arsenic and antimony, and has set new standards in environmental friendliness. With the product's unique composition of materials, SCHOTT already meets future ecological standards and proves its innovative strength as the market leader once again. 70 percent of glass ceramic cooktops can now be produced in this way. SCHOTT's medium term plans are to change the complete production of cooktops to meet these standards.

Environmental awareness is an important subject and is gaining more and more relevance among consumers in the appliance industry. According to a GfK study, 48 percent of the people would spend more money for environmentally-friendly products. The newly developed "CERAN SUPREMA®" cooktops meet these ecological demands because they are mainly produced from the natural raw material quartz sand. Due to the quartz crystal mix and a patented melting technique with a high-tech process, SCHOTT CERAN® saves more than 180 tons per year of the heavy metals, arsenic and antimony, which would usually be used. These additives are necessary in the common production process in order to achieve a high quality glass ceramic. With intensive research and development, SCHOTT has managed to optimize the production process so that the addition of these heavy metals is no longer necessary. This means that SCHOTT is already a step ahead of the European Union regulations when it comes to environmental friendliness.

### **Patented production processes for the environment**

"We set ourselves the task of protecting the environment and observe the production as a whole", says Dr. Thomas Hünlich, manager of environmental protection technology at SCHOTT. „Due to permanent investments in research, we are able to develop patented production processes with which we can achieve our environmental goals. For example, our filter equipment has been reducing the dust in waste gases by more than 99 percent since 1979."

With innovative technology during the melting processes and the use of pure oxygen in firing, the energy requirements for each ton of melted glass are permanently optimized. This highlights the company's pioneering role in Europe as it reduces the strain caused by nitrogen and the consumption of energy and water. „One of our main principles is to place as little strain as possible on the environment”, explains Dr. Thomas Hünlich. “This is why we are continually developing new technologies which save resources.”

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SCHOTT is an international technology group that sees its core purpose as the lasting improvement of living and working conditions. To this end, the company has been developing special materials, components and systems for nearly 125 years. The main areas of focus are the household appliances industry, pharmaceuticals, solar energy, electronics, optics and the automotive industry. The SCHOTT Group is present in close proximity to its customers with production and sales companies in all its major markets. The Group's approximately 17,300 employees generated worldwide sales of approximately 2.2 billion euros for its 2007/2008 fiscal year. The company's technological and economic expertise is closely linked with its social and ecological responsibility. The parent company of the SCHOTT Group is SCHOTT AG, whose sole shareholder is the Carl-Zeiss-Stiftung (Foundation).