

Government relations

TENCATE USA PLAYS HOST TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND AMBASSADOR

Visitors of note

In August the TenCate sites in Pendergrass (Georgia, USA) and Hebron (Ohio, USA) received visits from members of the United States House of Representatives, the lower house of the American Congress. In November, TenCate Protective Fabrics in Union City (Georgia, US) was honoured by the visit of three prominent guests. They were Renée Jones-Bos, the Netherlands ambassador to the United States, consul-general Simone Filippini and her senior commercial officer Barbara Staals. This formed part of a working visit by the ambassador to the state of Georgia aimed at further advancing the strong economic and cultural ties between the Netherlands and this southern state.

By tradition (and by law) the US Congress goes into recess for the month of August. This gives members the opportunity to also allow them the opportunity to visit local businesses and to speak with their employees. In this connection TenCate Geosynthetics played host to Paul C. Broun, at their headquarters in Pendergrass on 8 August. Since July 2007 he has represented the tenth district of the state of Georgia, in which all three TenCate Geosynthetics North America sites are located. TenCate Advanced Armour in Hebron received a visit from their US congressman, Bob Gibbs, on 25 August. He represents the 18th district of Ohio.

Pendergrass

In Pendergrass Paul Broun was given a briefing on the importance of geosynthetics products and their various applications from Wally Moore (Geosynthetics Global Group Director). The congressman had the opportunity to speak with Lee Bryan (President, TenCate Geosynthetics N.A.), John Henderson (Senior Vice President) and other TenCate staff on issues of national security, the US budget for infrastructure and the regulatory system. This relates to for example the role of geosynthetics in the construction of landfill sites for coal ash and the plans for the withdrawal of US soldiers from Afghanistan. TenCate Geosynthetics is currently selling a cargo parachute to the US Military for troop resupply in this country.

During a guided tour, Paul Broun gained a good impression of what is involved in the manufacture of high-grade geosynthetic materials.

Hebron

At TenCate Advanced Armour in Hebron, congressman Bob Gibbs was briefed by Mark Edwards (President of TenCate Advanced Armour USA), Steve Simmerer (Vice President of Business Development) and Tim Marth (Director of Operations).

Discussions included an overview of the various armour applications and projects in which TenCate is involved, including vehicle and personal protection armour. He too was given a tour of the production facility and then had the opportunity to speak with TenCate employees. His remarks included updates on policy relating to the US budget and regulations within the Environmental Protection Agency (the federal agency that is responsible for the protection of public health and the environment).

Union City

On Monday, 7 November TenCate Protective Fabrics in Union City (Georgia, US) was honoured by the visit Renée Jones-Bos, the Netherlands ambassador to the United States, consul-general Simone Filippini and her senior commercial officer Barbara Staals. In Union City the three guests were welcomed by Don Olsen (Global Group Director, TenCate Protective Fabrics) and his executive staff and by Guido Vliegen (Global Group

Director, TenCate Grass). The two group directors discussed the leadership positions held by TenCate in a number of niche markets within their business groups.

Health

Renée Jones-Bos appeared to be most interested in the impact of Dutch ownership on the health of the US companies that TenCate had acquired. Don Olsen offered positive comments about the significant investment and turnaround performance of TCPF since the time the business was bought in 2004. The ambassador elaborated on the good relationship that the Dutch and the US have had historically over the centuries and continue to enjoy, as evidenced by the fact that the Netherlands is the third largest investor in the US. The Netherlands is also the seventh largest source of foreign direct investment in the state. As a result, more than 18,000 jobs have been created in Georgia, with an additional almost 7,000 jobs involved in exports to our country.