

# Dr. Marra receives ICG's Turner Award

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

The executive director of Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness, Dr. James Marra, has been awarded the Turner Award from the International Commission on Glass.

According to their website, ICG is “a non-profit international society of national scientific and technical organizations with particular interests in glass science and technology.”

They are an organization with the goal to connect individuals and organizations across many fields of glass expertise.

This award has been given to a deserving contributor to ICG technical committees each year for the last 16 years. It is named for the first president of ICG, Professor W.E.S. Turner.

There are two criteria for winning this award: doing a service for ICG and having an international impact on the glass industry.

Marra is deserving of this award because of his development of the technical committee for nuclear waste vitrification, which he started 12 years ago, as well as his impact on the waste vitrification field.

Nuclear waste vitrification is the process of turning radioactive liquid waste into glass.

“My background has been in the treatment of nuclear waste,” Marra said. “We take the nuclear waste, mix it with glass forming materials, melt it, and vitrify it into glass.”

This process of turning liquid waste into glass is the international consensus method to stabilize high level radioactive waste to help with storage and ultimate disposition. This process is also used internationally for other kinds of waste.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Dr. Jim Marra, the recipient for ICG's Turner Award.

Marra went to Japan to receive the award at the ICG convention.

When thinking about receiving the award, Marra said, “It’s always humbling to be acknowledged and honored by your peers. I’m lucky I’ve had support from past employers to do these kinds of activities.”

Not only is he humbled, but he is also grateful for the connections he’s made through ICG.

“Through these interactions I’ve been able to enhance my knowledge about waste vitrification and other glass technologies, but I’ve also made lifelong friends with scientists from other nations.”



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

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## CNTA expands reach with social media

Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness has expanded its reach by revamping their presence on social media.

Since the debut of social media sites like MySpace, Facebook and Twitter, many organizations have taken advantage of these public platforms to communicate their information and values.

The goal of CNTA is to raise awareness of the value of nuclear technology, and an easy way to do that is by using a free site that anyone can access.

The organization aims to be a reliable source of information about nuclear technologies, and using Facebook and Twitter is beneficial in spreading that knowledge.

While CNTA has been present on Facebook for several years, it has not been consistent. After the project to put the internet to use, there are efforts to be more diligent in posts and

content creation.

These are the steps that are being taken to increase CNTA's activity on social media and their website: posting often, using hashtags, sharing value-loaded content and being responsive to those who visit the page. This can positively impact revenue, website traffic and brand awareness.

Many new posts are about new developments in nuclear technology, organizational updates and educational information about nuclear science.

The Facebook page has many uses. It is a place for educators to find quality articles and videos to share with their classes; it updates the public on changes in CNTA, SRS and Plant Vogtle; and most importantly, it is a place to show those in the nuclear community that they are not alone and that there is an organization that is supporting the nuclear industry.

