

## **Press Release**

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### **LiST Laser Cutting Process receives Joseph von Fraunhofer award Grenzebach Maschinenbau significant industrial partner**

Grenzebach Maschinenbau - a leading manufacturer of high tech production plants and an important partner to the glass industry - are pleased and proud that Fraunhofer Institute for Mechanics of Materials received one of three prizes which were awarded in 2008 by the German Fraunhofer Gesellschaft to recognize scientific achievements in solving application-oriented problems. In the presence of German Federal President Dr. Horst Köhler the Institute was honoured with this award for their developments in the LiST project, a special laser cutting process for flat glass.

Sponsored by German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Fraunhofer Institute for Mechanics of Materials, Freiburg, and industrial partners under leadership of Grenzebach developed a new process by which flat glass can be cut with laser at such speed that it can be applied in production lines for window glass.

One special feature of laser-cut glass is the "polished" edge. Also impressive is the high bending strength of laser-cut glass which is free of micro-cracks and withstands a much higher force compared to conventionally cut glass, before breaking. This increased stability opens up new perspectives for the use of laser-cut glass in architecture. It also positively influences the layout of a production line, as edge grinding may be dispensed with. Grenzebach is presently working to bring the new technology into readiness for series production.

The Joseph von Fraunhofer award is recognition and motivation for further research projects. One of these is the development of vacuum insulating glass with less than 10mm glass thickness and with double the sound and thermal insulation properties of today's insulating glass. Several institutes and industry partners led by Grenzebach are working together on this research project called "ProVIG".