

Grenzebach Corp., Newnan, GA, USA

Grenzebach sets Standards with fully Automated Glass Coating Line

Grenzebach Corporation delivered its first fully automated architectural glass coating line to a major US manufacturer.

Grenzebach Corporation, with its parent company Grenzebach Maschinenbau GmbH, is a global manufacturer of production equipment for the flat glass, construction material and veneer industries. The North American facility was opened in 1988 in Newnan, Georgia, to intensify the contact with various important market sectors in the USA. The company is staffed with full sales, engineering, manufacturing and installation teams to serve its North American customers.

The new production line is a major achievement to meet the challenges of high performance coated glass manufacturing. The coating process

and the coatings themselves are very sensitive to contamination and handling damage. Great care must be exercised in all phases of handling and transport of the glass to secure high production yields.

The new line features 100% automated cutting, transport and stacking operations. Before or after the coating is applied, in the production process the coated surface of the glass is never touched. In-line cutting with automated break out optimizes the coater performance by running stock sizes and responds to the ever increasing demand for customized glass sizes. Integrated process buffers and accumulators accommodate interruptions

in coater operation and ensure consistent speed and superior quality.

“Glass is not just glass anymore. Through advanced coatings glass has become specialized,” comments Stefan Grenzebach, CEO and President. “For example, coatings can be tuned to let pass only desired portions of the light spectrum, coatings can be designed to be self-cleaning, anti-reflective coatings can be used to maximize the reception efficiencies of photovoltaic cells.”

Advanced coatings are the most promising trend in modern glass industry and are an extremely important impetus for the industry’s future growth. According to industry sources, dedicated new float lines are currently being planned to provide glass to the emerging thin film photovoltaic market.

Utilizing the vast experience gained in installing such lines in Europe and Asia, Grenzebach is able to deliver state of the art solutions to producers of coated glass around the world. Today Grenzebach automated glass handling solutions - first developed for large float glass production - are being used by glass manufacturers of all sizes, and in operations such as coating, high speed tempering, laminating, auto glass production and other glass fabrications.

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Load station.

Photo: Grenzebach Corporation.