

Finnish firm develops first non-invasive IG gas measurement device

For over 25 years, insulating glass manufacturers have searched for a simple, non-invasive and non-destructive way of measuring their product's argon gas fill and retention levels.

As of today, they can have an answer in ten seconds with GasGlass, a high frequency, high voltage, low amp gas-measurement device from the Finnish fenestration equipment development company, Sparklike Inc., of Helsinki.

The new high-tech device is capable of emitting a spark across an IG unit's entire air space as a means of taking accurate measurements of argon gas levels, and does so in a totally non-invasive manner. The same task, if undertaken conventionally, would take a great deal longer and result in the unit's destruction.

"There's no doubt, right now interest is very high in this and other such devices in North America," said Edgetech Vice President of Business Development, Gerhard Reichert. "Landmark Canadian testing two years ago was a real heads-up to insulating glass producers across the continent."

"Everyone realized right then and there that both initial-gas-fill and long-term retention levels were not living up to what had been envisaged for this technology. Since then, the clamor has grown for better and better test equipment."

"The GasGlass machine holds a lot of promise," added Edgetech research engineer, Milind Jhaveri. "The evaluation unit we have gives accurate readings. There may be some difficulties with certain configurations, but based on the sample units we tested, it yields satisfactory results."

Sparklike already has GasGlass into the next model phase, according to its President, Niklas Tornkvist, with a couple of key upgrades, such as a replacement of its Tesla coil with an electronic spark

generator and some new software options. The device will sell for under \$10,000. To date, evaluation units have sold for around \$8,700.

"This technology once again throws open the door to much better window design," noted Reichert. "With unlimited low-cost testing capability at their fingertips, window manufacturers can



Ten-second argon testing device from Sparklike Inc.

now test their design theories and seal configurations as often as they need, with no lost production to act as a deterrent anymore."

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