

AFG Installs Automated Super Spacer Line

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Christmas came early last year in Kingsport, Tennessee. On December 18, AFG's insulating glass division completed the installation of its fully-automated Bystronic production line. Made specifically to run Super Spacer®, the new line features automated spacer application and gas filling.

said. "We use Super Spacer because of its quality and it is requested specifically by our customers."

Prior to installing the new line, AFG was operating at capacity and needed to increase production of units containing Super Spacer.

"The volume level of Super Spacer units required on a very short lead time continues to grow each year," Vance said. "We were at a point where we were at maximum capacity with our current production equipment, and the quality requirements from our customers continue to be more demanding."

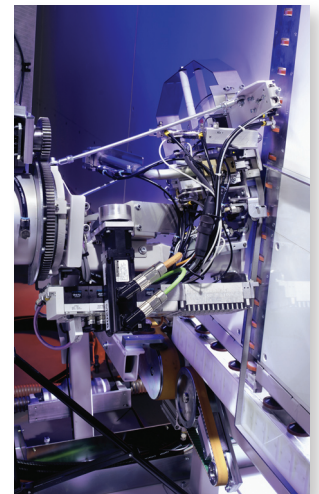
In total, the production line took only three weeks to install. Edgetech had a hand in the selection and



Bystronic first flexspacer line

installation of the line. "Edgetech provided us with the technical and marketing support we needed," Vance added. "Edgetech is a very customer-focused company and has a strong team. They are very committed to quality and understand the residential and commercial markets," he said.

While the jury is still out on exact data, Vance expects production efficiency to improve with the new line.



"The productivity will certainly improve," Vance concluded. "The automated equipment allows the units to be produced in a very consistent manner without having the glass or spacer touched by an employee."

Headquartered in Kingsport, Tennessee, AFG Glass is the largest supplier to the construction/specialty glass

market, and the second-largest glass manufacturing organization in North America.

AFG offers clear and tinted flat glass products, patterned glass, energy-efficient coated glass, tempered and laminated products, insulating window units, and specialty products such as touch-panel and solar glass. 



According to Greg Vance, AFG's general manager, the new line will improve the visual quality of the finished IG, improve production efficiency and provide a consistent gas fill rate.

>> "When doing our research, we found all of the benefits we were looking for with the Bystronic line," Vance

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