

## AFG ORDERS TWO LISEC INSULATING GLASS LINES FOR CANADIAN OPERATIONS



AFG announced in June that they will be installing new Lisec Super Spacer® IG lines in both their Edmonton and Calgary commercial fabrication operations. Tom Holloran, Executive Vice President of AFG Industries, LTD., commented that "the investment in these two fabrication plants demonstrates our strong commitment to the Canadian market, and our determination to support our customers with high quality, energy efficient products."


Holloran also added "the Canadian Energy Star® initiative differs from the U.S. program by having its own set of climate zones and a dual track in

achieving acceptable performance. Super Spacer and other Warm Edge solutions, combined with a broad range of both hard and soft coat low emissivity products, places AFG in a unique position to support their customers across Canada to achieve their energy conservation goals and qualify for Energy Star. This investment enhances that capability."

The new insulating capacity will support both commercial and residential customers in Western Canada, according to Frank Davey, Executive Vice President and General Manager of AFG Fabrication's Canadian assets. Davey said, "Our long-term investment strategy

is to continue expanding in growth markets by providing practical solutions to key customer glass requirements. Edmonton and Calgary are in the midst of strong residential and commercial construction, and we are in position to support that growth."

Michael Hovan, President of Edgetech IG stated, "AFG has been an important partner of ours for many years, and this new investment will help us both to bring Warm Edge, energy efficient products to the Canadian market."

The new Lisec lines are expected to be in operation by late fall. 

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## THOMPSON IG: MOVING DOWN THE ROAD WITH WARM-EDGE AUTOMATION

To Russ Manser, President of Thompson IG, Fenton, Michigan, the glass fabricator's recently installed second automated Lisec IG line represents "looking down the road - and around the bend - with increased manufacturing efficiency, especially when making shapes."



Russ Manser, President, Thompson IG

Founded in 1989, Thompson first applied Super Spacer® manually in 1999. This June it began operating its second vertical Lisec fully-automated IG line, which Manser anticipates will greatly expand its Warm Edge production volume and specialty product capabilities.

"We look forward to producing 13,500 IG units per week from our two robotic IG lines," says Manser, "with a total capacity of 21,000 units." Thompson IG serves a combination of over 200 commercial and residential window customers with a fleet of nine trucks, including three semi-tractor trailers.

The new Lisec line is dedicated to making Super Spacer IG for a unique group of markets: structural curtainwall, commercial windows, residential vinyl windows and sunrooms, as well as for the RV industry, which represents nearly

30% of company sales.

"The Class 'A' motor home/RV market today demands precision-made tempered IG for its 2' x 3' windows," says Manser. "With Super Spacer, we can handle the two-inch radius corners peculiar to both the RV and mass transit markets. And an important plus to the RV makers is the sound-dampening benefit of all-foam Super Spacer."

With the recent introduction of its second vertical line, Thompson is poised to meet anticipated growing demand fueled by the industry's steady transition to Warm Edge spacer. Says Manser, "The secondary seal, also applied robotically, produces the highest quality in the industry. And we are especially excited to be able to automate our special shapes production, making curved-unit Super Spacer IG for all of our window customers - in normal turn-around time."

For the commercial/architectural market, the same equipment automates application of Edgetech's revolutionary Super Spacer® TriSeal™ product for structural glazing.


With an extensive range of coated and uncoated glass types, Thompson IG can satisfy the most demanding archi-

tectural requirements. It can edge, notch and drill; and Thompson distributes Spandrel in both standard and custom colors. For the residential window market, Thompson offers vinyl window manufacturers straight-line, shape v-grooving, decorative contours and custom-shaped muntin bars. What's more, TIG can apply lead inlay, in combination with v-groove, to add an elegant look to residential windows.

Another segment of Thompson's residential IG business goes into sunrooms. "We make laminated, tempered, insulated sloped glass for the sunroom and skylight industries," notes Manser. While its primary customer base resides in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana, TIG's skylight IG business takes it into Wisconsin,

Alabama and Virginia. Shower doors, up to one-inch thickness, are another important niche.

"We aim to be a world-class insulating glass

manufacturer, combining high-performance with unlimited aesthetic glass choices", says Russ Manser. "With the combination of Lisec automation and Super Spacer, we believe Thompson IG is ready for today's customer needs and tomorrow's." 



The \$14.5 million glass fabricator employs 105 at its 52,000 sq. ft. plant.