

UPG, ahead of the curve with automated Super Spacer TriSeal production

"Staying ahead of the curve is part of our heritage," explains Mike Cully, Vice President of United Plate Glass Company, Inc. of Butler, Pennsylvania. Since last March, some of UPG's IG customers have literally been ahead of the curve - thanks to the manufacture of high-quality IG manufactured on the flat glass supplier's new fully automated Lisec Super Spacer® IG line. "Our customers tell us they are very pleased with the quality of these units," says Cully.

As one of the industry's most diversified and complete glass suppliers, UPG embraces leading-edge technologies that can open up new niche markets before their competitors get to them. For example, in 2001, UPG had the distinction of having one of the first high-convection furnaces in the United States - the Uniglass UniCharge. The UniCharge Tempering Oven provides the latest innovation in tempering technology and produces one of the highest optical quality products in the industry. The company added its second convection furnace in 2004, positioning itself for future growth in the residential and commercial flat glass markets.

The new Lisec line is also opening up new opportunities in the commercial glass market, by automating the manufacture of all

versions of Super Spacer, including Super Spacer TriSeal™, the revolutionary Edgetech silicone foam spacer designed for fixed commercial and structural glazing. The new Lisec line, UPG's second, will greatly increase their capacity to produce Warm Edge IG.

UPG manufactures and distributes flat glass, specialty glass and IG from two buildings totalling over 100,000 sq. ft., serving a growing residential window fabricator network within a 200 mile radius of Butler, PA, including parts of West Virginia, Ohio, New York State and Maryland. "We believe, with our new automated Lisec line making Super Spacer TriSeal, UPG is well-positioned to increase its capacity to supply large commercial projects," notes Cully.

"Since our new Lisec line was installed last March, two existing aluminum box spacer customers have converted to Super Spacer. Also, we immediately picked up a new customer who was already sold on Super Spacer, plus two other new accounts. We only run TriSeal on our new Lisec line. Our first commercial Super Spacer TriSeal project is an 80,000 sq. ft. new construction YMCA building in Cranberry Township, PA." The dramatic curtainwall building was designed by Ross Schonder Sterzinger Cupcheck P.C. (RSSC) architects, based in nearby Wexford, PA. Curtain wall construction, glazing and installation were completed by Wexford, PA's Don's Glass & Mirror, who has over 20 years' experience of complex installations on commercial and institutional projects in the Tri-State area.


"The new Rose E. Schneider Family YMCA," says project architect Ralph Sterzinger, "has an indoor aquatics center featuring four pools, a fitness center, gymnasium, community rooms and a 12,000 sq. ft.

wellness center to be developed and operated by the Butler Health System. Keeping with the health and fitness theme, we specified a thermally-advanced glazing system with triple-sealed IG - and other 'green' design options that emphasize energy conservation, as well as provide generous daylighting for the building interior. The building's generous expanses of glass express the client's wishes to provide an inviting, open and secure environment that, at the same time,



The Rose E. Schneider Family YMCA, near Pittsburgh

reveals the multiple activities going on inside, even when viewed from the street." Sterzinger says RSSC is considered a 'green' architectural firm, having recently completed a LEED-certified project for The Three Rivers Rowing Association in Pittsburgh. The \$10 million Schneider YMCA facility is scheduled to open this November.

This Fall UPG and Edgetech will co-sponsor a series of boxed-lunch presentations to help educate 'green' architects on Super Spacer TriSeal's Warm Edge structural integrity for commercial applications, as well as the promise of excellent energy savings, resistance to mold and condensation for advanced IG window systems. 

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