Perfectly in line

In cooperation with its strategic partner Interpane E & B, AGC Glass Europe has commissioned a new plant in Klin, Russia, for coating energy-efficient flat glass.
One thing’s clear

“For me, sustainability means long-term efficiency in terms of equipment, hardware and staff.”

Eric Martin, Project Manager at AGC Glass Europe

AGC coated glass plates are used in projects across the globe, such as in Frankfurt’s MyZeil shopping and leisure center.

The balance between aesthetics and energy efficiency is an increasingly important dimension in modern architecture. As the only specialist in the market offering a complete range of energy-saving, triple silver-coated glass products, flat glass manufacturer AGC is keenly aware of this. At AGC’s industrial complex in Klin, Russia, AGC Glass Europe and Interpane Entwicklungs- und Beratungsgesellschaft mbH (Interpane E & B), the R&D and Engineering center of Interpane, commissioned a new coating plant in 2013, which will use magnetron sputtering technology. The glass plant now supplies high-caliber materials to customers in the construction industry with a commitment to sustainable building practices.

Getting it right the first time

“Establishing this new plant was the first collaborative project between Interpane E & B and AGC Glass Europe,” explains Eric Martin from AGC Glass Europe, which is headquartered in Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium. “What mattered to us was that the new installation would have standardized hardware and would be able to fall back on a global support network.” For Martin, this clearly meant having Siemens as a partner. This was the first time Interpane E & B, AGC Glass Europe and Siemens had worked together to convert a plant to Siemens components. A feat of this magnitude called for a systems integrator with vast experience in Siemens solutions. The ideal candidate was found in on/off group. “The Process Control System Simatic PCS 7 forms the nerve center of our process automation, yet we were completely unfamiliar with it – as was our trusted OEM partner, Interpane,” recalls Martin.

Smooth teamwork requires integration

Once the systems integrator had installed the Simatic PCS 7, Siemens was also able to contribute a wide array of invaluable products and solutions to the project. Firstly, Siemens provided a solution for power distribution (medium-voltage distribution based on Siemens NXAIR, low-voltage distribution based on Sivacon 8 PV switchgear). Secondly, a range of different Siemens divisions worked together in a global team to coordinate the migration to Siemens technology, which included project management, hardware and software engineering, cabling, installation and commissioning. Other vital additions were the decentralized Simatic ET200M module with Safety Integrated, and Profibus Network or Profinet Network connections for all components. And finally, Siemens also delivered a global solution based on Simatic PCS 7 Process Historian, which covers the entire glass coating line and products from a range of OEMs (Interpane, Hegla, Benteler, Grenzebach). Martin sums up the experience with following words: “We were more than satisfied because we had found precisely what we were looking for: expert standardization and global support.”