

GLASSTECH WORLD

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Glasstech Opens Liaison Office in Mumbai, India Ramesh Srinivasan Appointed Country Manager For India

As the importance of precise and efficient glass processing increases throughout the world market, the demand for Glasstech's advanced automotive and architectural processing systems intensifies.

To meet this heightened demand, Glasstech will open a Liaison Office in Mumbai, India. The grand opening will take place May 20. The office will be managed by Ramesh Srinivasan.

"We're fortunate to have Ramesh Srinivasan join Glasstech as Country Manager for India and head of the Mumbai Liaison Office," said Jay K. Molter, Glasstech Vice President, Marketing & Sales. "He will coordinate requests for information and quotations as well as sales and service needs in this rapidly expanding glass market."

Srinivasan is experienced in the sale of capital equipment, including his most recent position as Chief Sales Manager for the Bauer Division of International Combustion, Ltd. He holds mechanical engineering and advanced marketing management degrees from Bombay University.

Glasstech is moving to capitalize on the rapid growth of the glass processing industry in Asia, particularly India and China. The company opened a Representative Sales Office in Shanghai in 2004 and will be an active participant in China Glass 2006 (Beijing, April 25-28, Booth #1-645) and Glasstech India 2006 (New Delhi, December 13 - 15, Booth #13A04).



Ramesh Srinivasan,
Glasstech's Country
Manager for India

Glasstech Promotes Two To Vice President

Glasstech recently announced two promotions. Jay Molter, a 24-year Glasstech employee, has been promoted to Vice President, Marketing & Sales. Thomas E. Noe, a 22-year employee, was named Vice President, Customer Service.

"Glasstech's success is directly tied to the quality of its people," said President and CEO Mark D. Christman. "Jay and Tom have made major contributions toward establishing and maintaining the company's worldwide reputation, and we look to them to strengthen our position in the future."



Tom Noe, left, and Jay Molter,
right, have been named Vice
Presidents at Glasstech.

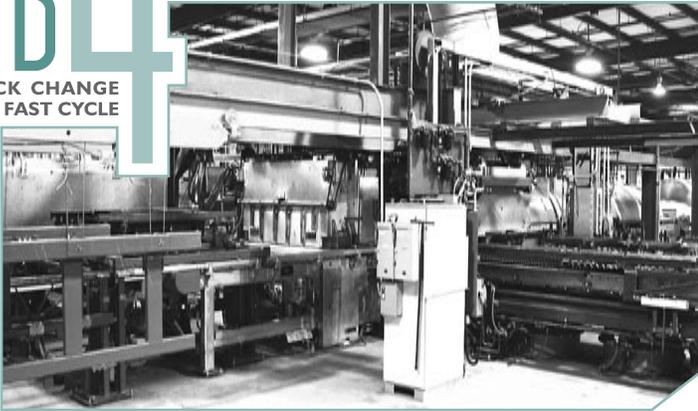
Molter is responsible for positioning the company and its products in the worldwide architectural and automotive glass markets and for the sale of Glasstech's products to the world's leading glass fabricators. He previously was Director, Marketing & Sales.

In 1981, Molter joined Glasstech's Finance Group. He became Director of Marketing Administration in the Marketing & Sales Department in 1991. In this role, Molter has worked directly with customers on the selection, purchase and financing of the company's unique systems. He also has headed the development of Glasstech marketing collateral material, coordinated trade show involvement and supervised public relations efforts.

Noe is responsible for all customer service, quality, field installation, technical service and project management activities. Previously, he was Director of Customer Service.

Noe started with Glasstech in 1984 as a Technical Service Engineer and has held positions of increasing responsibility in the field and technical services area. He has represented Glasstech in several industry associations responsible for the development of international safety glass standards.

Providing Big Dividends For Customers



Since the mid-1980s, the Glasstech **DB™ 4** Advanced Bending and Tempering System has set the worldwide standard for the production of complex, high quality press-bent sidelites, quarterlites and backlites. Worldwide glass processors know the DB 4 delivers higher productivity, higher quality and higher efficiency.

Recently, Glasstech introduced the DB 4 Quick Change/Fast Cycle options to improve optical quality and shape accuracy and to increase glass yield. The Quick Change/Fast Cycle options have reduced tooling changeover time from the traditional 6 hours to 90 minutes and have increased output by 20 percent.

“The Quick Change/Fast Cycle options are popular retrofits to existing DB 4 systems in addition to being available on new systems,” said Jay Molter, Vice President, Marketing and Sales, Glasstech. “The Quick Change/Fast Cycle options will enhance operating results for their owners.”

Glasstech customers are providing testimony to the increased efficiency resulting from the Quick Change/Fast Cycle Options

available for the DB 4. One customer finding tremendous benefit from the Glasstech DB 4 is Guardian Automotive, which provides exterior systems to the global automotive industry and is a Tier 1 global automotive supplier.

“Guardian Automotive has seen significantly improved changeover times with its Quick Change/Fast Cycle equipped furnace, compared with the changeover times of our standard Glasstech DB 4 furnaces,” said Tim Grossman, Tempering Process Engineer for Guardian Automotive Glass.

Grossman credits the improved time to two key aspects of the Quick Change/Fast Cycle Options.

- First, preheating tooling shortens changeover time by several hours, avoiding waiting for the mold and press ring tooling to achieve, and properly soak at, furnace temperature.
- Second, the self-aligning tooling feature reduces the time it takes to perform hot alignment of the mold, press ring, and quench ring from approximately 30 minutes to five minutes.

According to Grossman, “The importance of being able to perform rapid furnace tooling changeovers can not be overstated with the ever increasing emphasis being placed on lean manufacturing, with lower part inventories and just-in-time production.”

Additionally, Grossman said Guardian has experienced other benefits resulting from the Quick Change/Fast Cycle Options. The rigid mold-support system has increased repeatability of tooling setup, and the self-aligning tooling feature has decreased wear on the tooling alignment pins and socket rollers, noticeably.

“The system of transferring the press ring off the shuttle rails and onto a level plane, prior to press forming the glass, has resulted in more stability of press and increased consistency of final part shape,” Grossman said.

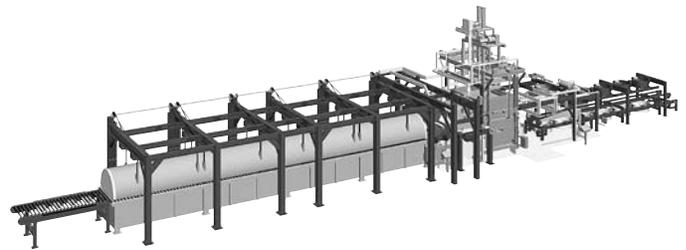
Glasstech Windshield System Wins High Praise From Customer

The Glasstech **SDB-L™** Advanced In-Line Forming System for laminated automotive safety glass is providing Automotive Components Holding LLC’s Nashville, Tennessee, plant with the technology to produce today’s windshields as well as the complex windshield shapes of the future

“Bending singles with ground edges and the systems’ enhanced hot-glass handling capability ensures the customer of a stronger finished windshield,” said Alan Heap, Fabrication Area Manager at the Automotive Components Holding plant. Automotive Component Holdings now operates the former Visteon Corporation glass plant.

Two Glasstech SDB-L systems were installed in the plant in 1998 and have been used to produce windshields for the very popular Ford F-150 pickup truck.

According to Heap, “The system has a good process capability index (CpK) for form, which helps improve fit at the assembly plant and reduce wind noise. Additionally, the system uses a full-surface mold, which ensures design intent and shape profile-conformance repeatability.”



The Glasstech SDB-L systems are the perfect technology for production of today’s windshields because of their ability to produce complex shapes with exacting tolerances and superior optical quality. In addition, the reliability and productivity of the SDB-L systems also make them competitive from a commercial point of view.

The SDB-L produces very accurate windshield singles, with patented stress control, at rates up to 150 windshields per hour. The system is capable of producing glass parts having maximum depth of bend of 380mm (15 inches) and minimum radius of 120mm (4.8 inches).

The Self-Aligning Quick Change Option tooling design feature also adds to the overall system efficiency by reducing part changeover time to approximately 90 minutes.