

Flat Glass

Excellent cooperation with Guardian Industries Corp.

Several in a Row

The glass industry depends on extremely reliable production processes. This means that the industry tends to use only proven innovative technology built and commissioned by reliable partners – such as Siemens, who has implemented a sustainable, innovative automation solution for Guardian at several sites in Europe and Saudi Arabia.

As a rule, the glass industry relies on solutions that have proven themselves over decades. However, in cooperation with the melting furnace specialist STG from Cottbus, Siemens has been able to introduce a range of innovations offering clear benefits in process control, which have since become accepted as the new industry standard. The trigger for this change was a range of projects undertaken for Guardian in the UK, Poland, Spain, Luxembourg, Saudi Arabia, Germany and Hungary. Siemens implemented a new control concept in these applications.

One of these projects was the Guardian float glass plant at Goole in the UK. With a capacity of more than 600 tons per day, the plant produces all strengths of glass for the British construction industry. The project included the automation of the entire process from the hot to the cold end. Not only did Siemens supply and install the entire process control system for this project, but also all the sensor technology, as well as the exhaust gas analysis system. The expertise of Siemens' long-term partner STG was very beneficial, particularly with regards to the melting end and cooling channel. The results were impressive: The plant delivered perfect quality product – from the very first day of production.

Cooperation continues

The most recent project is the Guardian production line for float glass in Oroshaza, Hungary. This project involved the realization of the control technology for the melting furnace and cooling channel. Work began in July 2004. This project was also carried out with STG and utilizes Simatic S7-400 technology with comprehensive networking via Profibus DP in an approach very similar to the innovative strategy already implemented at Goole in the UK. All participants are confident that this project will continue the series of successful projects for Guardian and Siemens. ■

First steps in the Americas

Siemens was able to secure another project at the Guardian glass plant in El Marques, Mexico. This completely new plant is the site of Guardian's first flat glass production facility in Mexico. It came online in August of 2004 and is designed to produce a daily capacity of 700 tons.

Siemens supplied all the motor control centers (MCCs), the gas analysis system for the bath, medium voltage switchgear, distribution panels and lighting panels, and essential parts of the electrical system. Siemens and its partners played a crucial role in the project, with a team of Siemens experts from Mexico and the USA providing comprehensive on-site support.



Guardian

For Guardian in Mexico, Siemens supplied the medium voltage switchgear

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