

Argotec Unveils New Headquarters and Manufacturing Operation

Greenfield, Mass.-based Argotec, Inc., a producer of thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU) optical interlayer film for glass lamination, has unveiled a new 95,000-square-foot world headquarters and manufacturing plant. The addition of this new facility increases the company's total operation at the Greenfield Industrial Park to more than 150,000 square feet.

"The new plant provides not only increased capacity and improved quality for existing customers, but also permits us additional flexibility to explore new markets and applications," says Bruce Wilby, president and chief executive of-

ficer. "It will create greater efficiencies throughout our entire production process, letting us focus more of our resources on research and development."

The new plant houses eleven extrusion lines, two blown film and nine flat-die. Seven of the flat-die lines are used for aliphatic TPU film production and will be housed in an 8,000 square foot hard walled clean room, with each individual extrusion line additionally enclosed in its own Class 10,000 soft walled clean room environment.

Much of the production from these extrusion lines will be used as optical interlayer films for bonding glass and poly-

carbonate into high-strength, impact-resistant laminated glass composites.

To support its new facility, the company will convert its Greenfield Street plant to raw material and finished goods storage. It will also rededicate its Adams Road operation as a standalone research and development center with its own, dedicated technical staff.

► www.argotec.com

Saint-Gobain Completes Research Center Expansion

Saint-Gobain has completed the expansion of its largest international research center in Northboro, Mass. The expansion, which was begun in July 2008, cost \$15 million and provides 60,000 square feet of new laboratory, office and meeting space for 200 scientists and engineers.

The Northboro site is the largest of the company's four worldwide research centers. The new building was designed by Boston architect Shepley Bulfinch Richardson & Abbott. The facility also incorporates the company's own building products. An opening ceremony was held on July 30 and was attended by many VIPs, including Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick.

► www.saint-gobain-northamerica.com

Sapa's Agreement with Indalex Complete

On July 31 Sweden-based Sapa completed its purchase of the U.S. aluminum extrusion company Indalex, in accordance with the terms of the asset purchase agreement entered into between them on June 16, 2009.

As a part of the purchase, Sapa acquired Indalex's eleven active plants, six



Biesse Canada Moves to New Headquarters

Biesse Canada and Intermac Canada has moved into a new Canadian headquarters in Mirabel, Quebec, northwest of Montreal. The facility, which began construction in October 2008, consists of 25,000 square feet. A 6,000-square-foot showroom will demonstrate machines at in-house events while another 6,000 square feet will be dedicated to offices and meeting and training rooms. The last 13,000 square feet will feature an 8-ton craned warehouse.

Biesse, which has U.S. offices in Charlotte, N.C., will continue to maintain a facility in Toronto.

► www.biesse.com

in the United States and five in Canada, with two cast houses and 29 presses and a total capacity of about 347,000 tons per year. Indalex's sales in 2008 were about 220,000 tons, representing \$900 million USD. Indalex has 1,400 employees. Through this acquisition Sapa strengthens its geographical coverage and logistical efficiencies to better serve North America, including an expansion into Canada.

▶ www.sapagroup.com

Sekisui Acquires Interlayer Raw Materials Business

Sekisui Chemical Co. Ltd. has acquired the polyvinyl alcohol resin business of Celanese Corp., a Dallas-based chemical manufacturer. According to information from Sekisui, the acquisition of the business will enable it to secure a stable supply of PVOH resin raw materials for producing the polyvinyl butyral resin that in turn is used to make interlayers for laminated glass. The acquisition also enhances its local production capabilities, develops technological synergies for raw materials and strengthens its supply chain.

Production capacity of the Celanese business being acquired is 120 thousand metric tons/year, while reported sales for 2008 were \$296 million USD.

The acquisition cost approximately \$173 million USD.

▶ www.sekisuichemical.com

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