

Poland site sees LiSEC at full throttle for PRESS GLASS

PRESS GLASS NOWOGARD, FULLY-AUTOMATED BY LISEC

Over the last 30 years Press Glass has grown from a single facility into a household name among flat glass suppliers. 15 international facilities spread across Poland, Croatia, Italy, the UK and the US produce quality interior and exterior glass for the commercial and residential market. With an export rate of 80 percent, the company supplies Scandinavia, the Baltics, Central and Southern Europe, the UK as well as North America.

Despite being one of the largest independent IG producers in Europe, Press Glass remains a privately-owned company with a lean, agile leadership structure. This allows it to quickly adapt to a changing market. With numerous production facilities and a wide range of products, the company is able and willing to meet its customers more than half-way. "We allow the market to test us," says Press Glass

Technology Development Director Jakub Krakowski at, "And we are, of course, competitive."

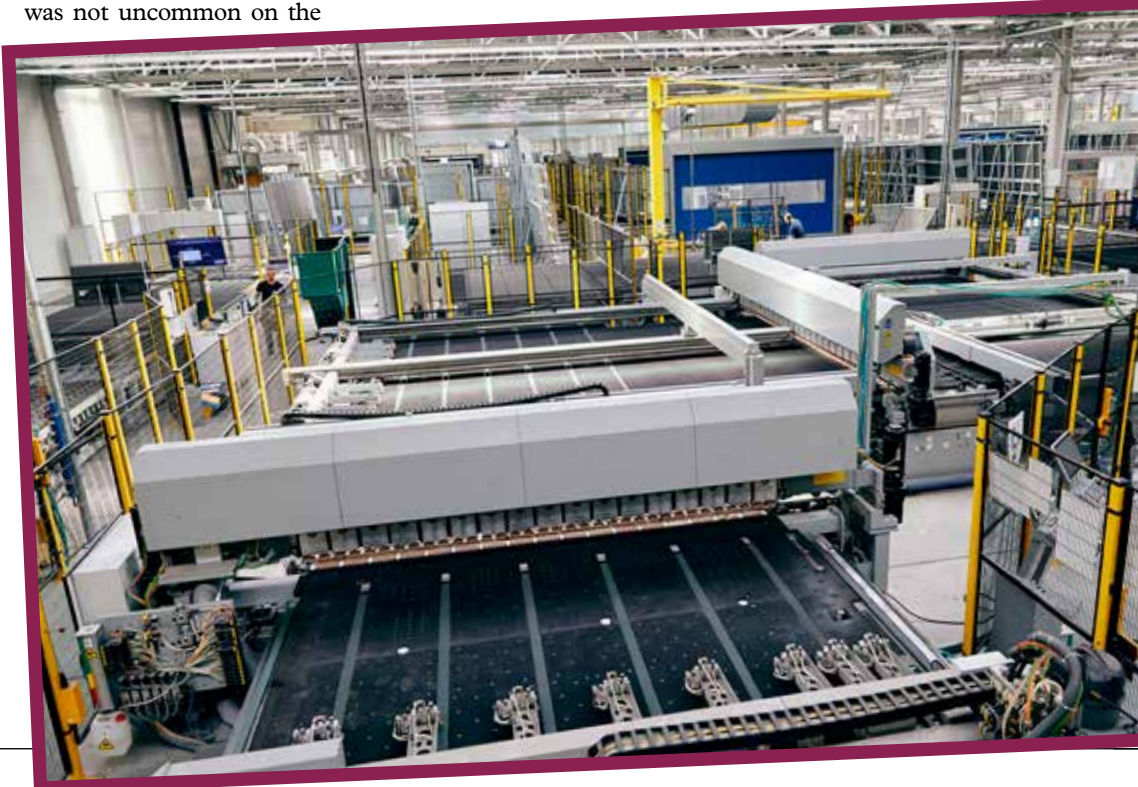
HIGH-PERFORMING LOGISTICS

Cooperation between Press Glass and LiSEC goes back almost 30 years. "From the very first facility, we bought high-end technology from LiSEC. Back then, that was not uncommon on the

Polish market," recalls Krakowski. "We are very transparent about building long-term partnerships with our suppliers. For us, a good partnership is mutually beneficial, allowing us to meet challenges and solve problems together."

When the company planned its most automated facility to date, it once again trusted LiSEC. Krakowski, as head

of a team of technicians who accompany the introduction of innovative solutions at Press Glass, talks about the intentions with the Nowogard project: "Our goal was to create a copy and paste facility, which Press Glass can reproduce in any new location. At Nowogard we looked into every process and worked out all the kinks."



Together with LiSEC, which has been much valued for its reliability and problem-solving capabilities, global flat glass supplier PRESS GLASS achieved a new boost to its high efficiency at its Nowogard site, where LiSEC's advanced automation, logistics and an emphasis on sustainability all mark a benchmark for joint projects in the future.

Located in northwestern Poland not far from the Baltic Sea, Press Glass Nowogard operates six cutting lines: one fully-automatic laminated glass cutting line and one additional lami-cutting bridge as well as five monolithic cutting tables. The six lines are fed by a gantry system on one end, and they feed into two large buffer systems on the other end. Each buffer in turn supplies two IG lines.

Buffering and sorting play crucial roles in optimising the material flow and machine utilisation. Intralogistics ensures process stability and reliable supply during various processing steps, even with different glass types. For instance, only the uncoated side of coated glass is touched, preserving the coating. A slight tilt angle (approximately 2°) during glass transport also protects the coating. LiSEC offers high-quality systems, available 24/7 with minimal maintenance - accommodating various glass sizes and shapes.

Looking back on the project, Krakowski remembers the challenges: "The schedule was very tough. In 2017 the market was very strong and customer demand was high. We already had pro-

duction on the lines while we were still fine-tuning the machines and while the software developments were still being tested. From the first IG unit off the line, it took about two to three years until everything was working to our full satisfaction."

But those challenges did not come without rewards. "Right now, I can say that this is our most efficient facility in terms of production per shift per person, so we produce more glass with fewer operators. And we have the lowest losses in glass, due to the automation -we largely eliminated manual handling- but also owing to better internal logistics. We have fewer quality issues, fewer claims, fewer problems." Indeed the Nowogard site supplies 15 - 20 percent of Press Glass' total residential production volume.

Here Krakowski highlights another benefit of the sorting system: "Our customers have very high demands on the sequence of the glass sheets on the racks, different types of labels, different shipment days, etc. - a lot of different small things we need to deliver. This is helping quite significantly: We produce pretty much 99 percent on time. And



if something goes wrong, we have a partner that we can call in, and they come over quite fast and solve the issue."

WHAT'S NEXT UP FOR PRESS GLASS AND LISEC?

With the Nowogard site up and running, Krakowski and his team are already working on new projects. The next development with LiSEC is being realised in the UK, combining three facilities in Wales under one roof. "Due to the softer market, we have more time to develop things, which is good, but on the other hand, the pressure is required to make it faster. It's always a matter of finding the balance."

Looking back on his own 12 years working at Press

Glass, Krakowski sums up his experience with LiSEC: "At some point, we had to make the strategic decision to diversify our machine and software suppliers, which provides us with an interesting test environment within our own group of companies. For me, there are not many suppliers that can deliver complete and robust solutions that work 24 hours a day, seven days a week." Still, working under those kinds of conditions, something can go wrong. "And it will go wrong eventually, inevitably," says Krakowski, speaking from experience. "Then you need somebody who can support you. In our company, many people on the technical team and the

production teams have more than 20 years of experience. They need someone on the other side who knows what they're talking about. A reliable partner that knows how to solve your issue, or who's at least willing to sit down and find the solution together with us. In that way, we consider LiSEC reliable."

A FUTURE OF AUTOMATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

Krakowski's opinion about markets and industry changes is: "The biggest change we and everyone else surely observes on the Polish market is that automation is coming and of course digitalization is coming. For 10, almost 20 years we have been talking about industry 4.0. It used to be un-



clear how it would look. Now Nowogard is our first facility with this degree of automation, and automation has factored in all our projects since. Beside better quality and

higher efficiency, we also want to utilise manpower in the best way possible, which means removing heavy work such as lifting glass many times over. Another thing more and more of our customers especially on the Scandinavian market request is detailed information on the production process, for example: How much power was used to produce this IG? What was the water consumption? Which renewable resources were used, how high was the share of green energy? So, we of course get all the required certifications. We also add photovoltaic installations on every new project, as well as any older facility where it's possible. Our latest production in Lithuania for example is almost fully-powered

by photovoltaics. Investing in renewable energy is pretty much the only direction you can go."

ABOUT LISEC

With headquarters in Seitenstetten/Amstetten, Austria, LiSEC is a worldwide group of companies that for over 60 years has provided individual and comprehensive solutions in flat glass processing and refining. Its businesses include machines, automation solutions and services. In 2023, the group with about 1,300 employees and 20 locations achieved an export ratio of more than 95 percent and generated sales of almost EUR 300 million. LiSEC develops and manufactures glass cutting and sorting systems, single components and complete production lines for fabricating insulating glass and laminated glass, as well as machines for glass edge processing and tempering. With reliable technology and intelligent automation solutions, LiSEC sets standards in quality and technology and significantly contributes to the success of its customers.

LiSEC Austria GmbH

LiSEC

Peter Lisek Street 1
3353 Seitenstetten - AUSTRIA
Tel.: +43-7477-405-0
Fax: +43-7477-405-80
E-mail: sales@lisc.com
www.lisc.com



PRESSGLASS

PRESS GLASS Sp. z o.o.

Miętno 40
72-200 Nowogard
Miętno - POLAND
Tel.: +48-91-880-34-00
e-mail: nowawies@pressglass.com
www.pressglass.com

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