

DELTAMAX, 15 years of GlassInspector

The return to Glasstec this year, after 4 years marked by unpredictable events that have indelibly affected everyone, coincides with a very important anniversary for Deltamax. In fact, 2007 was the year when Finstral, one of the most important Italian companies in the production of doors and windows in PVC, decided to test the first defects detection system for insulating glass-lines. GlassInspector — this was the name assigned to the prototype — was a product of Deltamax experience in the artificial vision on flat glass, which started in the early 90s thanks to installations on production lines for flat glass and glass for the automotive sector.

The technological evolution of cameras had allowed the development of affordable systems, within the reach of small and medium-sized companies wishing to increase the automation of their production lines, in particular for the detection of defects.

There was still a great deal of scepticism toward systems that seemed complex and difficult to use in daily activities, but the desire to improve the quality of the glass used in its windows led Finstral to accept an agree-

ment aimed at experimenting with a 'scanner'.

The experimentation did not last long, because the results obtained far exceeded expectations, both for the performance in terms of defects detection, and for the ease of use by the operators. Shortly thereafter, the other two lines of the Scurelle plant were also equipped with GlassInspector, a system that is still used with satisfaction by Finstral today, after 15 years.



INTERVIEW WITH FINSTRAL PRODUCTION MANAGER ROBERTO COLME

Deltamax interviewed Roberto Colme, who is still the production manager of the Scurelle plant as he was back then. He is the one who personally invested in this innovation for their production process.

It's been 15 years since the purchase of the first GlassInspector. First of all, we would like to ask you if that system is still active. Of course, the GI is still in operation. It is no longer in the factory where it was installed 15 years ago; it was moved to another warehouse to another line,

but it is fully operational. *Have any changes been made to the system to ensure its effectiveness during these 15 years?*

There were some software updates and a couple of hardware upgrades, like the illuminators, which allowed us to have a product that always works and with increased performance, without the need to completely replace it.

Did you buy other systems?

Yes, we currently have two Deltamax systems in Scurelle, two in Oppeano, and one in the plant in Germany. We decided to buy the other scanners precisely because of the advantages we had thanks to the first GI, just a few months after installation.

It was indeed a big change to go from the visual inspection carried out by the operator to an automated system, which is much more accurate and precise. This allowed us to immediately notice defects in the production line, significantly reducing customer complaints: a fundamental advantage for us. In addition to this, the entire production process was naturally optimized, with a reduction in waste and therefore in costs: by being able to check the entire production process, we could identify, for example, the cause of some scratches caused by machinery defects.

Are you planning to increase defects detection by purchasing other systems?

The improvements have been



plentiful; at the moment we are very satisfied with the products we already have. However, we are not ruling out purchasing other systems in the future.

Could you give us feedback on the assistance that we provided?

We are extremely satisfied. Our contract includes remote intervention in case of need as well as 3 annual on-site maintenance jobs by Deltamax technicians; this way we are ensured with the correct operation of the systems and any software or hardware updates we might need.

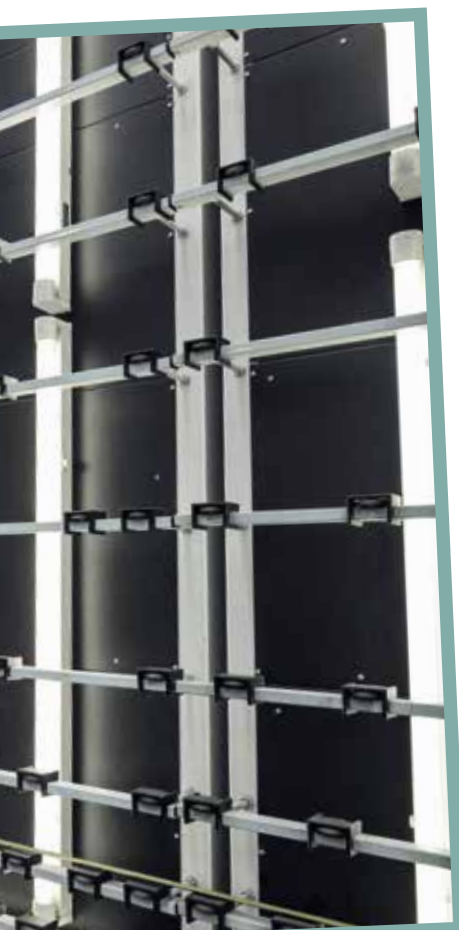
IMPORTANT FEATURES

One of the most important features of GlassInspector is the possibility of upgrading the system, increasing its potential, simply by replacing some of the components subject to wear, like the illuminators. The first version installed in Finstral used neon illuminators, which were then replaced with LED illuminators, then blue light LEDs, and finally

with double illuminators. Together with constant software updates, guaranteed by an assistance contract, the systems used by Finstral have gradually become more precise and reliable, following the growth path of the quality level defined by the company. Over the years, the changes have also affected the structure of the system, now more streamlined and less bulky to facilitate the operator's work.

INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS

GlassInspector has won over 200 customers, with more than 300 installations in 30 countries around the world. GlassInspector has indeed opened an important path, which in the following years led to the creation of different solutions for insulating glass lines.



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