

# More and more ambitious projects for architects and glassmakers thanks to **SIMTECH**



SIMTECH and its team are continuing to focus on highly skilled design and manufacture of specific products used in diverse industrial sectors. This article takes a look at how the company's products are used in the glass industry, where meeting important requirements is an essential part of work.

Simtech, located in Belgium, was founded in 1992 and specializes in the design and manufacture of technical products in vulcanized rubber, plastomer, elastomer and composite. The company has been certified ISO 9001 since 2002 and exports more than 85 per cent of its production on all five continents. Part of Simtech's production is destined for the glass industry and, depending on the type of glass, Simtech has to face a series of important requirements.

### LAMINATED GLASS

Laminated glass, whether automotive or architectural, must, on the one hand, obviously be aesthetically perfect. Each component that comes into contact with it during its manufacture must not pollute it. To achieve this, we apply a specific anti-stick and anti-static coating inside our reusable vacuum bags that does not mark the glass. It also prevents the PVB (or EVA) edges from sticking to the inside of the bag. Finally, it allows to easily remove any glass or spacer residues remaining inside the pocket. On the other

hand, very fragile thin and curved lenses must be laminated with care. The flexibility of the rubber bag allows it to adapt to the most complex shapes and curves of lenses.

Simtech designs, manufactures and supplies the following solutions to meet these requirements:

- for glass lamination (automotive, architectural, safety, etc.) Simtech

manufactures and markets custom made reusable vacuum rubber bags, carts, vacuum pumps, accessories, engineering and services through its Flexlam range;

### FLEXLAM® - GLASS LAMINATING SOLUTIONS

Through close cooperation with customers and suppliers, Simtech develops new mate-

rials to optimize the characteristics of its reusable vacuum bags for the automotive and architectural glass industry. This approach allows the company to be very flexible and to offer each customer a vacuum bag that meets their expectations, because if the principle remains the same, the constraints and requirements of users vary from one site to another. Simtech also offers a wide range of accessories (transport carts, vacuum pumps, hoses, etc.), supporting its customers with technical assistance, engineering and expertise.

### VACUUM BAGS FOR 'BAG FURNACES'

When vacuum bags are



used in the mass production of automotive windshields, they are mounted on fully automated 'Bag Furnaces'.

**Strengths:**

- very good hold of accessories (tearing) thanks to the vulcanization process used for the assembly of the bag elements;
- materials were also selected because of their flexibility over time, allowing the passage of large or complex shaped windscreens;
- the internal non-stick coating facilitates care and maintenance, and minimizes the risk of marking the glass (PVB residues, etc.);
- Simtech high temperature materials ensure an optimized life span;
- Simtech on-site monitoring ensures constant evolution and adaptation of its vacuum bags.

### VACUUM BAGS FOR MANUAL USE

Resulting from the development of these vacuum bags used for small and medium series, so-called manual vacuum bags are also available in many dimensions, and are used for the manual loading of laminated, flat or curved glass.

Simtech therefore puts its know-how at the service of glassmakers of all sizes, in a variety of applications.

**Strengths:**

- **Flexibility:** the same vacuum bag can be used for a whole range of glass, whatever the size, shape and thickness. The anti-sticky internal coating facilitates maintenance and reduces to a minimum the risk of marking the glass (PVB residues, etc.).
- **Quick and easy to use:** Simtech's different systems simplify the opening and closing of the vacuum bag and can be adapted to any production needs. In addition, the vacuum bag can be opened on one, two, three and four sides, which facilitates glass loading and unloading.
- **Life span:** Because Simtech has developed high performance coated fabrics and accessories, the company now provides vacuum bags that can be used many times\*.

*\*Note: Service life of the vacuum bag is strongly linked to*

*the temperature, use and duration of the cycle.*

### ENGINEERING

Thanks to more than 25 years of practical experience in the field of glass rolling, palletizing and depalletizing systems, Simtech is able to design and develop solutions adapted to customers' needs concerning glass rolling or handling.

Simtech also invests considerably in research and development on these products for the glass industry, regularly filing patents.

The company is continuing to design even more vacuum bags to meet the requirements of glassmakers who need to produce increasingly curved glass, both in the automotive industry (panoramic windshields, glass roofs, etc.) and in the architectural sector (domes, stations, airports, etc.).

Simtech optimizes the degassing process, and its internal coatings also offer better heat transfer. The energy absorption by the pocket is very low, the rolling processes do not need to be modified (or very slightly) and thus energy consumption is limited.

 **SIMTECH SPRL**

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