

# FOREL team up with GLASS PLANET pushes new boundaries

**B**ack in 2001 a remarkable journey in the glass industry began with the founding of Glass Planet in Johannesburg, South Africa. From its modest origins as a family-run business, the company has since been transformed into a pioneering force in glass processing and the production of insulating glass

units (IGU). At the core of this transformation lies its steadfast commitment to technological advancement - a continual drive to push industry boundaries as well as a trusted partnership with Forel. Through this collaboration, Glass Planet has not only enhanced its competitive edge. It has also expanded into new

markets, thereby cementing its reputation for innovation and excellence in both architectural and decorative glass solutions.

## **A VISION DRIVEN BY AMBITION**

For CEO Steve Pypers, the glass industry was once uncharted territory. Despite limited experience in the

insulating glass sector, he possessed an unrelenting ambition to build something extraordinary. In its early years, Glass Planet was a small operation with only three employees, but under Steve's leadership, it rapidly grew into a formidable enterprise. Recognizing the need for precision-engineered machinery and a



Thanks to its strategic partnership with FOREL, leading South African glass manufacturer GLASS PLANET made fresh inroads recently along its ongoing transformation journey. By investing in advanced IGU production technology with Forel's T-Spacer™ system, the company has expanded its capacity and improved precision - setting another new industry yardstick across the African continent.

strengthened Glass Planet's product range, reinforcing its commitment to quality and precision. Encouraged by the success of this integration, Glass Planet made a bold move - doubling its production facility to over 10,000 square metres and implementing an advanced insulating glass production line. At the heart of this expansion was the Forel T-Spacer™ flexible profile applicator, complemented by an automatic gas coupling press and a high-precision

reliable technology partner, he sought a company that could offer not just equipment but also expertise and support. Initially, Glass Planet focused on precision grinding, drilling, milling, and tempering - laying the groundwork for its expansion into high-specification insulating glass production. This strategic shift required substantial investment, not only in infrastructure but also in state-of-the-art technology that could meet the growing demand for high-performance glass solutions in both residential and commercial sectors.

### LEVERAGING FLEXIBLE PROFILE IGU PRODUCTION

When the time came to make a critical investment in IGU production, Forel emerged as the natural choice. "From the outset, the professionalism and open dialogue with Forel



were instrumental in establishing a relationship built on trust," Steve Pypers reflects. "This collaborative approach continued seamlessly from planning through to installation - ensuring that every aspect of the new system was aligned with our objectives." The

partnership took shape with the installation of Glass Planet's first Forel production line four years ago. This initial setup integrated Forel's EM + DM + VW vertical edge processing, drilling, milling and a vertical glass washer. The ability to produce industrial-grade polished edges

sealing robot. Notably, this installation represents the most sophisticated insulating glass production line below the equator and the largest of its kind on the African continent. With this new technology, Glass Planet has revolutionized its production process, achieving automated, high-





volume output of standard, stepped, triple and shaped IGUs. “The improved accuracy and repeatability of our processes allow us to meet market demands with unparalleled consistency,” notes Steve. “We’re now responding to the increasing need for thicker and staggered IGU configurations, which has pushed us towards a more sophisticated engineering approach.” This transformative step has elevated Glass Planet from a traditional glass processor to a premier manufacturer renowned for cutting-edge insulating glass solutions. The investment has not only expanded production capacity but has also solidified the company’s position as an industry leader across Africa.





## BEYOND TECHNOLOGY: THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

While advanced technology has played a critical role in Glass Planet's evolution, the company credits its partnership with Forel as a key driver of success. The collaboration extends beyond machinery - it is built on a shared philosophy of professionalism, trust, and mutual respect. Steve Pypers emphasizes, "The

human connection is as important as the technology itself. Forel's commitment to providing ongoing support, expertise, and a sense of partnership has made a significant impact on our growth." This synergy echoes Glass Planet's own values, where customer relationships are nurtured with the same level of dedication as product development. By fostering a culture that prioritizes collaboration and innovation,

Glass Planet has not only navigated challenges but has also set new industry benchmarks.

## RAISING THE BAR FOR INNOVATION IN GLASS

Glass Planet's story is one of resilience, vision and strategic investment. By embracing the latest technological advancements and forming strong industry alliances, the company has redefined what is possible in glass processing and IGU production. Today, it stands as a beacon of innovation, recognized for delivering high-quality glass solutions that meet the evolving needs of modern architecture and design. The journey is far from over. With an unwavering commitment to excellence, Glass Planet continues to push the boundaries of glass manufacturing, setting new standards for quality, efficiency and sustainability. As the company looks

to the future, one thing seems certain - the synergy between Glass Planet and Forel will continue to drive groundbreaking achievements in the glass industry, shaping the environment for generations to come.

**FOREL**

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GLASS PLANET

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