

# Vacuum glass growth sees AGC scale Fineo manufacturing



**Q**UADRUPLED  
PRODUCTION  
CAPACITY,  
WITH LEAD TIMES  
HALVED

AGC Glass Europe has launched its new production line for Fineo by AGC vacuum insulating glass at its Lodelinsart site, delivering on an announcement

made last year. The expansion quadruples production capacity and cuts lead times by half, bringing them down to two weeks. With  $U_g$  values of up to  $0.44 \text{ W/m}^2\text{K}$ , AGC is positioning Fineo for the wider European building market. The new Lodelinsart facility is described as one of the world's most advanced,

highly automated manufacturing sites for vacuum insulating glass.

"The facility is a prime example of a new generation of industrial glass production. We started in 2019 with a pilot line, essentially Generation 1.0, are now at Fineo 3.0, and already have Fineo 5.0 in the pipeline for the fu-

ture," says Stefan Lips, Sales Director Europe for Fineo. "We are still at the beginning of a revolution, but are very excited to see this innovation take place in the world of glazing."

The industrial expansion is intended to support more competitive pricing and a broader product portfolio,

At Lodelinsart, AGC has launched a new production line for Fineo vacuum insulating glass, quadrupling capacity and halving lead times to just two weeks. The expansion supports broader availability Europewide, as well as improved pricing, a wider product portfolio and certified low-carbon performance for renovation and new construction.

including additional solar coatings and new variants for applications ranging from restoration to new construction. Available glass formats extend from 0.01 square metres to 1,600 x 3,000 millimetres. A key technological advance in the new line is vacuum evacuation at lower temperatures. This has reduced the production cycle from 20 to 15 hours, with a target of reaching 10 hours. As a result, production capability is expected to increase further.

### **'LESS IS MORE' AS DESIGN AND MANUFACTURING PRINCIPLE**

Fineo is an insulating glass product with a 0.1-millimetre vacuum layer between two glass panes. Unlike other vacuum glazing products, it has no evacuation opening, reducing visual disruption. During the vacuum process, the glass edge is hermetically fused to maintain high insulation values without maintenance, while preserving daylight transmission and the slender appearance

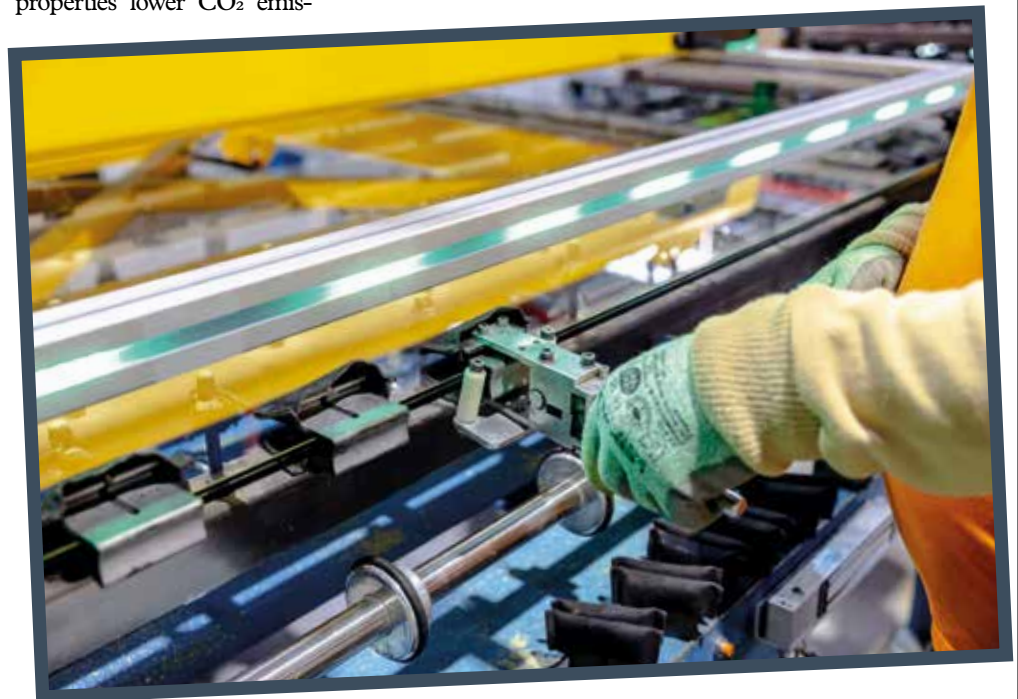
of façades.

“This vacuum glass offers thermal insulation comparable to that of triple glazing. However, it is much thinner, a quarter of the thickness of triple glazing, and lighter, at around half the weight. Fineo also enables a significant reduction in the thickness of new frames and windows, thereby drastically reducing the quantities of raw materials required. These properties lower CO<sub>2</sub> emis-

sions, both during production and in operation,” says Jérôme Goubau, Fineo General Manager.

The manufacturing process reverses the logic of conventional insulating glass. In a cleanroom, a large plate known as the motherboard, measuring 1,605 x 2,500 millimetres, is divided into the required pane sections, fully evacuated and sealed. Because no valve is integrated into the glass, the full sur-

face remains available. The glass is cut only after this process. Fineo also differs in its material composition. While conventional insulating glass consists of glass, aluminium, butyl and polysulphide, Fineo is made entirely from ceramic materials. It is 100 percent recyclable and circular, with all components able to return to the glass furnace. “I won’t live to see the end of the service life of the panes we produce today. If Louis



XIV had had Fineo available for Versailles, the glass would still have its original insulation value today,” says Jean-Charles Dumont, Operations Manager.

### FINEO: THE PREMIUM RESPONSE TO A GROWING MARKET

Europe’s building stock faces growing climate, economic and comfort-related pressures to renovate glazed surfaces. Many buildings remain poorly insulated, yet retrofitting them with thicker insulating glass can be difficult. Conventional

multi-pane insulating glass often reaches its limits because profiles are too slim, while load-bearing capacity and weight create further constraints. Fineo vacuum glass offers the thermal performance of triple glazing at significantly reduced thickness and weight, making it suited to these renovation challenges.

“Thanks to its slim edge seal and versatility of form, Fineo is the ideal solution for glass replacement in the restoration and renovation of historic windows. Beyond that,



the advanced vacuum glazing technology opens a clear market opportunity in new construction,” says Stefan Lips, Sales Director Europe for Fineo by AGC. On the strength of its proven benefits, vacuum insulating glass is continuing to gain market share from conventional insulating glazing solutions.

### CERTIFIED GREEN VIG MANUFACTURER

As energy labels become stricter, circularity and durability are moving closer to the centre of tenders and planning decisions. AGC has positioned Fineo as ‘a truly green’ option among glass insulation solutions. Fineo is indeed singular as a vacuum insulating glass produced in Europe. Its production benefits from an in-house coating facility at Lodelinsart, enabling products such as Fineo Solar Control solar protection glass, Fineo Acoustic sound insulation glass and fire-rated variants in combination with Pyrobel fire

protection glass. These combinations make thinner fire protection solutions possible. The nearby float glass production facility in Moustier further supports the product’s environmental profile. AGC manufactures the float glass, coats it on site and processes it into Fineo vacuum glass without lengthy transport. The company is also working to reduce the product’s environmental footprint through increased use of cullet as a recycled raw material, production electrification and a growing share of renewable energy. Fineo’s sustainability positioning is supported by recently obtained certifications. It is the first vacuum insulating glass product to receive an Environmental Product Declaration verified by an external third party, INIES, achieving 18.9 kg CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per square metre in its low-carbon variant. Fineo has also obtained an EPD from the Nationale Milieu Database, which is highly demanded by

## ABOUT AGC GLASS EUROPE

AGC Glass Europe is a manufacturer, processor and distributor of flat glass for use in the construction industry (exterior glazing and interior decoration), the automotive industry (original equipment manufacturing and replacement glass) and other industries, including transportation, solar energy and high technology. It is part of AGC’s European branch, which is a leading global manufacturer of flat glass, with over 100 locations and around 13,000 employees across Europe.

## ABOUT FINEO

Fineo by AGC is a latest generation of insulating glass, combining an ultra-slim design with exceptional thermal and acoustic insulation properties. Manufactured in Belgium using a revolutionary process, Fineo guarantees maximum energy efficiency and sustainability, in line with current building regulations. It does not compromise on aesthetics or performance. Fineo is a reliable and proven solution for professionals seeking the highest standards of technical excellence and environmental responsibility - whether for restoration, renovation, or new construction projects.



the construction industry in the Netherlands.

### OVER 60-YEAR TESTING CONFIRMS THERMAL AND ACOUSTIC PERFORMANCE

Fineo was the world's first VIG manufacturer to ob-

tain CE marking, ETA 20/0048, and holds relevant local approvals including aBG from the DIBt in Germany, Avis Technique from CSTB in France, BCRG in the Netherlands and ATG in Belgium.

"No other supplier can say the same. But one thing

must be kept in mind: a certificate is not a test report. What counts is whether a product can be delivered consistently and at scale. Fineo can," says Clément Lemoine, Head of Product & Marketing.

For specifiers and architects, this certification base supports planning certain-

ty, simplified compliance documentation and faster approval processes. With the new line, Fineo is now available to all customers, with no minimum quantities or exclusivity barriers. The range includes free shapes and is compatible with common frame types. Beyond manufacturing, Fineo is positioning itself as a knowledge and service platform for the value chain, from installers and distributors to architects and building owners. Digital tools such as the Fineo Configurator already support planning and specification.

"This is not a promise for the future. It is already reality. AGC is not talking about an expansion. AGC makes it real," says Lips.



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by AGC

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