



IOCCO expands its footprint

THE PATH OF CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Questioning oneself and learning to self-critique are essential steps for business growth. This mindset has allowed one company based in Cupello, in the province of Chieti, Italy, to establish itself in international markets - becoming a key supplier to major automotive players and beyond. The company's founder and general man-

Key in automation supplier for automotive glass player IOCCO excels by continuously analyzing and improving its products. The company has continued to expand with its focus upon training, research and cutting-edge technology like that of the Bag Furnace. Today its commitment to innovation ensures high-quality production - positioning it as a key supplier to major automotive manufacturers.



New innovation center

ager, Massimiliano Iocco, has always believed in the importance of training and research. These values have helped the company achieve high industrial standards in the automotive glass sector - introducing innovations that have garnered global recognition.

NEW INNOVATION CENTRE

The company's success story in Cupello begins with a commitment to high-level training. This approach not only develops the talent of its employees but also forms the cornerstone of the company's operational philosophy today.



Founder and General Manager



Vacuum Bag Furnace and HMI station

The goal was to prepare technicians and technologists capable of facing significant challenges,” explains Iocco. “The concrete results we achieved gave us the strength to present our innovative solutions to an expanding clientele, thus translating our technologies into actual products.

We have a strong business relationships worldwide especially in Europe, where our brand enjoys considerable recognition, in China, Mexico and both North and South America.”

THE BAG FURNACE AND HMI STATION

Among the company’s most advanced solutions, the Bag Furnace stands out for its unique characteristics and performance. As Iocco explains: “The Bag Furnace, now widely used by glassmakers, is a machine that removes

air from laminated glass through a precise technological process, sealing the edges before the autoclave stage. This de-airing process allows for the flexible production of windshields, sunroofs, sidelites and backlites, thereby enabling model changes without halting production. The system monitors every stage, including vacuum levels and temperatures, and reacts automatically to anomalies - ensuring continuous, high-quality production. It can produce side glass every 9 seconds and windshields or backlites every 18 seconds, and it can laminate glass as thin as 0.7mm with up to seven interlayers.” Thanks to advanced sensors and artificial intelligence, the

Bag Furnace system calculates optimal production parameters, tracking the entire process for each product and adjusting as needed. Compliant with the European Commission’s directives on Industry 5.0, this represents a significant leap in usability. The system’s management software, developed by Iocco, simplifies machine setup and maintenance, while also optimizing energy consumption when it exceeds production re-

quirements. To complete the process, Iocco also provides robotic assembly lines, combined with artificial vision systems and CNC machines for cutting interlayers. These fully-automated lines ensure production continuity and product quality. This expertise has allowed Iocco to launch systems capable of shifting the commercial balance in automotive glass production, securing partnerships with major global glass manufacturers.



Bag Furnace 9 seconds unloading robots

Automatic assembly line for multilayers automotive glass



Vacuum ring furnace



MEETING MARKET DEMANDS

In response to growing market demand for cost-effective de-airing systems, Iocco also developed a reverse-engineered version of the traditional Ring Furnace, commonly known as the ‘green snake.’ This system is de-

signed for the production of medium- and large-sized glass, such as windshields and sunroofs. “We upgraded the vacuum distribution system, making it more efficient in extracting air from the glass in less time,” says Iocco. “Indeed in its most advanced configuration, the

Ring Furnace includes fully-automated systems for disassembling rings, inserting spacers, loading glass onto autoclave racks and recirculating the rings from the unloading to the loading and assembly positions.” Though primarily focused on automotive glass, Iocco’s scope is not

limited to this sector. The company remains open to opportunities in other industries as they arise. After a recent trip to Shanghai, Iocco noted the increasing intensity of the electric vehicle market abroad, especially in terms of demand for specialized glass products. “To stay ahead and meet the demands of major international players, it’s essential to continuously scrutinize and adapt our business dynamics,” says Iocco. “In short, the ability to critique your own products must become a part of company culture. I believe it’s a great act of responsibility toward our customers. At Iocco, this practice is standard. Unlike many competitors, we embrace open innovation - developing unique solutions while engaging with the market.”

Alessandra Petrucci (Sole Director), Massimiliano Iocco (Founder and General Manager)



COMPREHENSIVE LINES FOR ADDED VALUE OPERATIONS

In addition to its core innovations, Iocco offers complete production lines for various value-added processes, including:

Robotic cell



14 A42. This proactive approach to industry events underscores its commitment to staying at the forefront of the automotive glass market. Indeed it is through constant self-assessment, open innovation and a steadfast dedication to training and development that Iocco is continuing to drive advancements in automotive glass technology - positioning itself

- Bright finishers assembly
- Assembly of centering pins and spacers
- Application of long-life primers
- Polyurethane extrusion along the glass periphery
- Installation of seals, bond-on lace, and finishers
- Assembly of connectors for alarms, faxes, antennas and heating circuits
- Grommet assembly
- Attachment of various accessories, such as brack-

- ets and pins, to support different devices
- Encapsulation using materials like polyurethane (PU), thermoplastic elastomers (TPE) and polyvinyl chloride (PVC)

ROBOTIC INNOVATION AND FUTURE VISION

Looking ahead, Iocco remains committed to pushing the boundaries of inno-



vation. The company plans to invest heavily in research and development in the coming years. "On average, over the last four years, we've invested around 11 percent of our turnover into R&D," shares Iocco. The company has also established an innovation centre, which aims to train new professionals capable of integrating seamlessly into its operations. "Our goal is to continue enriching our team with the skills necessary to drive further change," he adds. The company will showcase its innovations at Glasstec in Düsseldorf from October 22 to 25, 2024, at Booth

as a key player in a global market.



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