

Argotec news

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARGOTEC BUILDS SECOND HARD WALLED CLEANROOM, STARTS UP THIRD NEW ALIPHATIC TPU FILM LINE, NOW PRODUCES ALL OPTICAL INTERLAYER FILMS IN CLEANROOM ENVIRONMENTS

GREENFIELD, Massachusetts — May 30, 2007—

Argotec, Inc., of Greenfield, Massachusetts USA, global leader in the production of high-performance, precision-engineered, optically clear glass lamination interlayer films, today made the following announcements:

1. The construction of a second new hard-walled cleanroom at their Adams Road manufacturing plant. These cleanrooms are state-of-the-art for the specialty films industry. All extrusion at this facility occurs in a cleanroom environment.
2. The startup of a third new flat-die extrusion line for the production of polyurethane (TPU) optical interlayer films. This new extruder is housed in the second Adams Road cleanroom.



Hard-walled cleanroom at Argotec's Adams Road optical films facility



Aliphatic optical interlayer film being extruded in hard-walled cleanroom at Argotec's Adams Road optical films facility

3. All aliphatic TPU optical interlayer film production will be in cleanroom environments. This will continue to ensure that customers receive the cleanest, most optically pure interlayer films available in the specialty films industry.

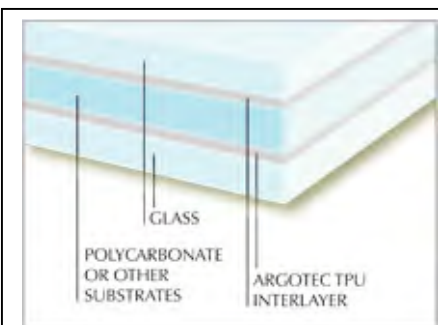
Aliphatic TPU is a grade of polyurethane resin ideally suited for extrusion into film and sheet for use as a bonding adhesive between layers of glass, polycarbonate, or other dissimilar substrates. Combining these materials creates a super-strong glass composite that is used in a wide variety of commercial, governmental, automotive and residential glazing applications where extremely high strength and impact resistance is required. Typical applications include banks, armored vehicles, correctional facilities, retail store fronts, commercial and military aircraft windows, government facilities, hurricane-resistant and anti-vandal glazing.

Aliphatic urethane film is an ideal material for glass lamination applications because its inherent elasticity helps bridge the coefficient of thermal expansion between diverse materials without delamination. It can be produced in polyester and polyether grades that are highly resistant to ultraviolet radiation without the yellowing often seen in other plastic materials. Polyurethane's tensile strength also offers excellent reliability and durability in these highly demanding applications.

The company's first plant, built in 1988 on Greenfield Street in Greenfield, Massachusetts, produces aromatic-grade TPU film using blown film, flat-die, cast-on-carrier, and extrusion



Argotec's Optical Film Division's 64 Adams Road facility houses three extrusion lines in two state-of-the-industry hard walled cleanrooms



Argotec aliphatic optical interlayer films are used to bond layers of glass, polycarbonate or other dissimilar substrates to create super-strong glass composites



Argotec's cleanroom extrusion lines provide aliphatic film & sheet with outstanding optical clarity, as viewed through ten layers of TPU-laminated glass

coating technologies. That facility is also used to extrude copolyesters, copolyamides, ether-amides, and specialty thermoplastic elastomers (TPE's) and thermoplastic olefins (TPO's).

Argotec's already-strong reputation for crystal-clear, optical-quality aliphatic film was further enhanced with the start-up of its new Adams Road plant in 1999 as a state-of-the-art, hard-walled, cleanroom facility and the

installation of its first dedicated, flat-die, aliphatic extrusion line. A second new extrusion line was added in 2004, doubling Argotec's aliphatic production capacity. The 2006 startup of its third aliphatic film extrusion line in the newly constructed hard-walled cleanroom will increase Argotec's capacity by an additional 50 percent.



Typical applications for Argotec aliphatic optical interlayer films include security glazing applications where high strength and impact resistance are required

This need for greater manufacturing capacity has been driven by steadily increasing sales of optical-grade TPU films domestically and around the globe. Argotec is now the leading worldwide producer of all aliphatic sheet for optical interlayers. The company has established manufacturing agreements with all the aliphatic resin suppliers who sell sheet into the aeronautical, military, architectural, armored vehicle and other ballistic-glass markets.

Argotec aliphatic sheet and film is available in widths from 14 inches (35.6 cm) up to 75 inches (190.5 cm) and thicknesses up to 100 mils. The Argotec optical films manufacturing operation utilizes a proprietary resin handling, extrusion and packaging process to minimize the possibility of product contamination. State-of-the-art camera inspection systems are also employed to ensure super-clean film. Excellent MD/XMD gauge control yields ultra-flat rolls and consistent lamination results with no sharp gauge bands. To further ensure its reputation for product quality and consistency, the company has implemented extruder operator cleanroom certification as well as resin and film quality certification programs.

Argotec, Inc. is a privately owned company that provides precision, custom-engineered polyurethane film and sheet for a wide variety of critical applications. The company sells product globally to the international specialty films market, primarily to plastics converters, fabricators and glass laminators, as well as to OEM's. Further information may be obtained by calling (413)772-2564, faxing (413)772-2565, e-mailing info@argotecinc.com, or visiting the Argotec website, www.argotecinc.com.

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Additional Images Available:



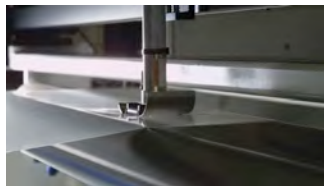
Argotec extrusion line in hard-walled cleanroom



Argotec extrusion line in hard-walled cleanroom



Argotec extrusion line in hard-walled cleanroom



Argotec's MD/XMD gauge control system assures consistent thicknesses, flat rolls with no sharp gauge bands



Argotec's camera inspection system helps ensure customers receive super-clean optical interlayer films



Typical end-use applications for Argotec aliphatic optical interlayer films include security glazing applications such as banks, government facilities, retail storefronts, and aircraft windshields