



December, 2010

A newsletter for professional glazing contractors, published by RJL Associates Inc.

## Now that the elections are over . . .

### What to expect:

- More projects being released in the coming 3 to 6 months
- Cautious government spending
- Tougher line on credit terms and account limits still apply
- Firming in some commercial segments, but multi-unit residential still weak
- Firms that gambled on low ball pricing to get over a short term recession continue to fall by the side

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Okay, so we all were good and went to vote on November 2nd. In fact, we all took the time to actually read the ballot, check out the candidates, read the issues on each proposition and constitutional amendment, then made an informed decision.

Whether this was you or not, the results are in and we must move forward. The question from a practical point of view is what is the effect on the local market and economy in general?

The Florida Legislature has flexed its muscle in doing some work overriding some vetoes that Governor Crist had made, the new set of

Representatives and Senators in the new Congress have been making a few waves, and the stock market seems to be feeling just slightly better. So what?

Maybe we should copy, in part, some of the attitudes of the Irish citizens when faced with the fact their country is way over their heads in debt. They combined an economic summit and comedy special in a setting featuring pointed jokes, barbs and cool pints being hoisted in their bid to make heads and tails of the mess, and a method to deal with it.

Back at home there are some small movements,

but the trend is too early to say we are on a consistent upward path in activity. Yet in the past couple of weeks there have been more reports of projects seemingly heading for bid, and the architectural side reports an uptick in projects being commissioned for design.

We are working on projections and trends, but the term "cautiously optimistic" may now be applicable.

In light of this, there are some interesting movements in different fields of construction materials seeing the opportunities on the horizon. Let's hope this is a trend!

## What's new in the market – more comments, developments and rumors

In our last issue we had pointed out some developments in the "clear" product monolithic product segment, which included Schott's Pyran Platinum and the FireLite HD.

I had commented on the hype the latter has been trying to produce on their website, but as of the end of November, still nothing solid as far as samples or hard technical data to use as comparison. There have been some rumors, but as nothing tangible has evolved, we are waiting to see what this really is. One

puzzling piece of information released by TGP is that the HD products will be available in standard and polished versions. Does this seem to be a contradiction?

On the Schott Pyran Platinum, some interesting tidbits have been coming to light in that the achievement of the "clearer" look, achieved via use of rare earth metals, has raised the issue of mining in China actually creating a more environmentally endangered condition as besides the normal spoils created by mining, traces of radio-

active by-products have been sampled. The Chinese government seems to be acting to deal with this, which is deemed to lead to higher costs and tighter supplies and regulations.

From some reliable sources it seems that Schott has been sourcing these components in that area of the world, as regulations in its home market make them too expensive or not available in the required quantities.

**(continued of page 2)**



The new 2010 Florida Building Code is progressing to its final mark-ups, and is expected to be approved for publication by December 2010. The scheduled effective date of this edition will be December 31, 2011.

### What's new in the market – more comments, developments and rumors - Continued

It is not known how or when these developments will impact this source of products, but it is raising some eyebrows in the USA currently as Schott has been promoting the product as “Green”, Environmentally friendly, and a better solution. These claims are now in doubt based on the information released.

On another development, **Vetrotech Saint-Gobain (VSGNA)** has made new improvements and expanded the listing for the **Keralite FR-Ultra**. This is a unique product using a combination of ceramic, intumescent and other techniques to produce a UL listed glazing product that combines several attributes.

The product has **UL listing for applications up to 90 minutes in temperature rise applications, meets all safety glazing requirements for human impact, and also has a sound reduction rating.**

This is all in a 3/4” thickness unit that **can be supplied for rated doors and framing in both interior and exterior applications.**

**A number of options** are available besides the **exterior use, and these include the use of low-e, special pattern as well as hurricane impact glass. On this option, the glass unit is UL listed for use in HVHZ zones**, and would have a nominal thickness of 1 1/2” to 1 3/4” depending on option chosen.

How about a comparison with say FireLite Premium Plus? The thickness would be 3/4” versus 5/16”; optical clarity would be similar or a bit better; the product has an STC and U-value, which the FireLite product does not have or meet; the product can be used on temperature and non-temperature rise applications.

Last, and I kept this separate, **it is lower in cost to**

**the FireLite Premium Plus.** The product is available for immediate shipment, and samples are available on request.

In addition **VSGNA** has been updating its website to add additional product details including CAD details, and will be **adding the Forster Curtain Wall system** information in the next couple of months.

**The Forster system is steel based featuring both one and two hour ratings, with aluminum, galvanized steel and stainless steel covers. An all stainless steel system is also available.**

Besides fixed panel sections, architectural profile doors with sixty and ninety minute labels, along with rated panels are available. The system is UL listed and can be used in most locations. Additional options will be introduced in 2011.

Contact us for additional information.

### Alufam's New Wall System—more information

Since the last newsletter, several designers and glazing firms have asked questions as to what the new curtain wall system by Alufam will and will not do.

Let me briefly give you a run down on the common characteristics and options. Both the one and two hour aluminum curtain wall systems are UL listed and have differing design perform-

ance characteristics.

Both are available in Mill finish, Clear and standard Color Anodized finishes, standard polyester and Kynar paint finishes, which includes metallic's.

The one hour system has a matching door available, limited to a 3080 single or 6080 pair maximum, with a number of options for hard-

ware. Note that fire rated hardware is a bit different than normal storefront.

The two hour system is currently testing an aluminum ninety minute rated door, which is expected to be available in late summer or fall of 2011. In the meantime an optional door system is possible. Contact us for additional information.

## Q & A Corner

***Is there such a thing as a bullet resistant and fire rated system that can be used in a two hour wall application? On this project we are working on we have been asked to provide a change order, and all the architect has given us is that the openings must be two hour fire rated, UL level 3 rated, and be UL or WHI listed?***

Yes, there are two systems I have seen that carry a listing and labeling that meet your needs. One uses a steel frame and approaches this as a double glazed application with the UL level 3 glazing in one pocket, and the two hour fire rated glazing in the other pocket.

VSGNA has an integral system which results in one glass unit being installed in the rated framing, but it is a bit heavy. However this approach carries an overall warranty and also eliminates the possibility of condensations with the two pocket approach.

***We have heard different stories regarding the new Code being developed for Florida by the Florida Building Commission. Some say this will not be effective for 2-3 years, but the last thing I remember reading was that this will be affecting the market fairly soon. What is the story?***

The new edition of the Florida Building Code will be the 2010 edition, and it is being finalized the next few weeks. Once this is done, it

will be released to the IBC for printing, and it is projected it will be available for purchase and distribution in the spring (March/April 2011).

The effective date for the new Code has been set as December 31, 2011. Expect that in the fall you will be seeing some courses on the changes made by the new Code, and we will be updating our educational seminars to reflect the update. I would say the fire rated glazing side will minor changes, but other areas will see some noticeable ones.

***I have seen on your website (www.vetrotechusa.com) that you have a system for non-temperature rise applications which looks a lot better than hollow metal. In fact it looks a lot like a simpler fixed frame assembly. Can you explain how this comes and also is it competitive to hollow metal framing, and what are the door options? I would like to expand on the products we can compete on in this tight market.***

The VDS Lite is what you are referring to, and this is a system we have had available for the last year but have not really pushed it much, but plan to do so. It is the junior cousin to our VDS but is not temperature rise rated. It is steel construction, but offered as assembled modules making field labor very predictable, come factory painted, and feature

snap in stops, making it look better.

As far as glazing, it will accept the Pyroswiss, Keralite family as well as Swissflam-45 and Contraflam-60 glazing products, so it gives you a wide range of possible combinations.

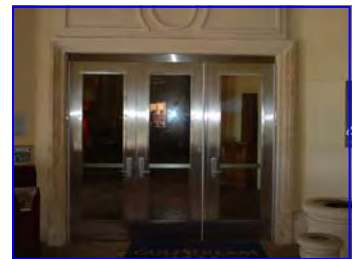
It is available with an architectural style door rated for 20, 45 or 60 minutes, and can also be supplied with high quality HM doors in the same rating levels. IN addition, door frames only can be supplied so that rated wood doors can be used, although we will not supply these.

For the doors we supply, hardware packages are offered so that you can have a fairly tight package, maximizing your earning potential. As far as pricing, it is just a bit more that HM systems, BUT to fairly evaluate this you must also add the cost for field painting and the quality of that finish versus the factory applied finishes.

When you take a look at the one stop responsibility and add all the costs, the VDS Lite package is fairly competitive with HM packages, and it is a better architectural looking system.

***If you have a question on an application you need an opinion on send it to us via fax or e-mail. See page 4 for contact information.***

***Our next newsletter issue will be in March 2011.***



**The above shows ninety minute, stainless steel clad full vision panel exterior doors by Vetrotech Saint-Gobain**

**While the Industry and technology changes, it seems that we need to hang on to certain key attributes such as tradition, manners, and common sense.**

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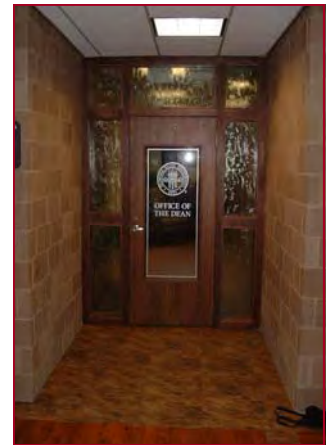
**Calendar and Notes**

December 23 – 31	Office closed in observance of Xmas and New Year's Holiday
January 3	Office closed in observance of New Year's Holiday
January 18 (2011)	Miami Chapter CSI presenting program by BOAF (Building Officials Association of FL) covering changes in the Building and Energy Codes—open at no cost to members and \$10 to non-members, but advance reservations required (e-mail <a href="mailto:hdley@mac.com">hdley@mac.com</a> )
April 22 (2011)	Office closed
May 12–14 (2011)	National AIA Convention in New Orleans, LA

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You can forward information, including take-offs, specifications, details and related information to us for pricing, with a typical turn-around of one business day, in most cases. Our firm represents Vetrotech Saint-Gobain and Alufiam North America.

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In this two hour wall application, a glazing unit combining fire and decorative glass was used in the transom and sidelights, along with custom trim on the frame. The wood door was fitted with vision light kit and clear glazing