

Excerpt taken from June 6, 2005, press release from the Powder Coating Institute (PCI):

**NEWS RELEASE**

**First Vertical Powder Coating Systems for Architectural Aluminum to Begin Operation in U.S. This Year**

JUNE 6, 2005, ALEXANDRIA, VA... The powder coating industry promises to revolutionize the U.S. architectural market, when two new vertical powder coating systems designed for coating aluminum extrusions begin operation in the United States this year.

Following the efficient vertical powder coating operations that have proven successful in Europe and other parts of the world, these new facilities will quicken production and coating time and offer better quality control, for a more economical coating operation. Combined with the environmentally friendly, durable, and energy saving finishing alternative that powder coating provides, these new systems promise to be the first of many new vertical architectural aluminum powder coating lines in North America.

Greg Bocchi, Executive Director of The Powder Coating Institute, remarked, "I am excited that these new vertical extrusion powder coating lines will soon begin operation in the United States, as they will help give powder coating the influence to better penetrate the U.S. architectural market."

The first vertical line is scheduled to begin production in August 2005. **Extruders Texas** is a division of the Atrium Group, one of the largest producers of aluminum windows in the United States. Trevisan Cometal North America Inc. is installing a complete vertical powder coating line for Extruders Texas in Wylie, Texas.

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The system includes an energy efficient, low maintenance pretreatment washer, automatic powder guns along with an automated cleaning delivery system supplied by ITW Gema, automatic synchronization of gun stroke lengths and reciprocator speed, and a fast cleaning cyclone booth and final filters to recirculate and re-use the air. Both large and short batch production profile runs may be powder coated, on one or both sides. The system also utilizes convection ovens with an infrared booster for dry-off and curing. The whole line is maintained by programmable logic controllers with a customized supervision software system.

The line will provide a complete range of standard colors, including metallics, textures, and the new Effecta process which brings the look and feel of real wood to aluminum products.

The Extruders Texas line can accommodate 24 foot parts, with the possibility of many color changes per shift with no production time lost during the color change.

Compared to a horizontal line, the Extruders Texas vertical line promises, according to a Trevisan spokesperson, "Better quality and production control, and higher quality of the end product," with "a much higher production and lower cost per unit or lineal foot cost."

The finished product will meet performance specifications set by the American Architectural Manufacturers Association for 1-year, 5-year, and 10-year weatherability, or AAMA 2603, 2604, and 2605.

PCI's Greg Bocchi noted, "Powder coating of architectural products has been slow to develop in North America, even after decades of success in Europe and other parts of the world. With the successful implementation of vertical powder coating lines and many liquid-based vertical aluminum extrusion lines facing more EPA regulations to reduce

VOC's, I am hopeful that powder coating may finally come on strong in the North American architectural market."

The Powder Coating Institute represents the North American powder coating industry, made up of suppliers of powder coating materials, equipment, and related products and services, and is committed to serving its members by promoting the benefits of powder coating technology.

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