

A Structure for Success

Upgrades to this curtain window wall manufacturer's liquid finishing line enhances product quality and positions them for future capacity growth.

Kawneer North America is used to doing things big. As one of the largest manufacturers of architectural aluminum building products for commercial construction, they routinely supply entrances, framing systems, windows and curtain wall systems for some of today's largest building structures.

So, when the company decided on a big capital project targeted at improving the liquid finishing paint line at their Springdale, AR manufacturing facility, they turned to the industry's most experienced supplier.

"We've been associated with Nordson for years and they've always provided superior technical knowledge and support," explains Brian Lehmann, Finishing Engineer. "We considered other alternatives, but knew Nordson would back their technology with service and support we could count on."

With goals of quality coverage, increased capacity and costs savings, Kawneer decided outfit its two primer spray booths with Nordson's newest technology – the Trilogy™ automatic electrostatic spray system. In addition, it doubled the number of Nordson RA-20 rotary atomizers used on its top coat and clear coat finishing line and added PLC controllers. The entire system was purchased through Contrast Equipment Company, one of Nordson's largest distributors.

"We run our horizontal paint line 24 hours, 5 days a week," says Lehmann. "And we manufacture so many different types of extrusions and part profiles that we needed a flexible, dependable system. We also wanted better penetration in Faraday areas to improve coverage and part quality."

The four Trilogy spray guns on its primer line – two guns installed per booth – met both those goals. Designed with coating versatility in mind, Trilogy guns feature two atomization technologies – air spray and high volume, low pressure (HVLP) to deliver superior application performance with a variety of substrates, coatings and part profiles. In addition, with the highest highest kV in the industry – 93 kV – Trilogy guns increase transfer efficiency and have



the velocity to penetrate recesses and corners on the extrusions for consistent primer coverage.

What's more, the addition of four RA-20 rotary atomizers to its top coat and clear coat line has helped Kawneer increase capacity to take on more work. Unlike conventional painting bells, the patented RA-20 has no minimum sparking distance. As a result, it can be positioned close to parts for optimal coverage and minimal overspray. In addition, the fine atomization and soft spray apply thin, controllable film builds with minimal paint bounceback.

"We've had the system in place since the first of the year and it's meeting all of our expectations," notes Lehmann. "The Trilogy guns have the added power to get the primer in those tough recesses, and the RA-20 bell atomizers are extremely efficient in using the electrostatics to maximize material usage."

"This installation was part of a good size capital project boost us ahead of the competition through cost reductions, quality improvements and the ability for future capacity growth. Our previous set-up had us bottlenecked, but the overall upgrade with the Nordson equipment is allowing us to see costs savings and giving us a springboard for future growth."

