



AMS strengthens position as market leader in window, door and façade technology industry

In 2008, Architectural and Metal systems' managing director Christopher Martin signed a multi-million euro contract to install a state-of-the-art aluminium extrusion facility at its plant in Little Island, Cork, changing the company forever

By the time this article will be read around Ireland and the UK, AMS will have produced over 200 tonnes of aluminium extrusion that otherwise would have been imported from other extrusion plants around the world. AMS was started in 1990 by a group of people who had one goal – this goal was to produce systems and provide services that would make it a market leader in the window, door and façade technology industry. We have designed patented thermal break technology that is unique to AMS and can achieve thermal performance that is better than anything on offer by any other systems company in the world. We have a state-of-the-art vertical paint line that can provide consistent quality and productivity like no other systems company in Ireland and we have a team of people who share the same goal as the founders in 1990 which is to be the number one supplier in the marketplace, wherever that may be.

Today AMS has placed the final piece of the jigsaw puzzle into place; we are now totally self-sufficient in everything that we do and this is all controlled on one site of over 10 acres and consisting of over 180,000 square feet of floor space. Imagine the flexibility of being able to have an extrusion that is not on the shelf available the next day. The extrusion process is so flexible that as soon as you can heat the die to produce the shape up to the required temperature, then you can begin the process. We will be able to produce



over 1000kg of extrusion per hour on our press and eight hours after the metal has come from the die it will be available to our customers, or indeed go into another process within the same building.

Frank O'Mahony, MD at Wilson Architecture once said "aluminium is such a wonderful material, so versatile, you can do almost anything with it". The extrusion press will bring AMS into new markets like aerospace, engineering, renewable energies and transportation to mention a few. It will also generate important export opportunities to countries other than the UK and France where we already have a presence. AMS are so vertically integrated now that if an overseas façade systems company came to us today we could design their system to their local requirements, provide certified thermal analysis of how this system will perform in relation to energy rating, provide independent weather testing from our in-house test rig and supply them with extrusion, powder coating and thermal break technology to make sure they are bang up to date with their building regulation requirements.

Today the world is such a different place for AMS, having spent over €10,000,000 on this new process, the adventure is just beginning and we look forward to the challenges it provides us with.

Words by AMS