New Simotion generation boosts productivity
Forvet has automated all of its flat glass machinery using Motion Control solutions from Siemens.

The municipality of Volvera, near Turin, is renowned for its machines used in flat glass processing: The Italian manufacturer Forvet has produced machining centers since 1990 for cutting, grinding, polishing, drilling and milling flat glass. To equip their globally exported machines with reliable and consistent control, and to ensure top performance, Forvet uses Motion Control solutions from Siemens. Simotion D axis control systems and Sinamics drives now come as standard in the machines.

Better performance
Retrofitting clearly pays off. Forvet has only recently migrated its machines to the latest generation of control systems, but yet the Simotion D4x5-2DP is already offering greater performance for the same cost. For larger drive assemblies, the Control Unit CU320 has now been replaced by the controller extension CX-32-2, which does not require a Compact-Flash card.

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Forvet is continually enhancing its machines with new technology and functions. The Francesca glass working center, for example, now comes fitted with an optional water jet cutting head. Using high-pressure water jets (up to 3,800 bar) and a garnet cutting abrasive, the machines can cut glass plates with thicknesses between 3 mm and 25 mm. High-precision motion along the x- and y-axes makes any cross-section possible, with a minimal cutting radius of 1 mm.

Complete production lines
Forvet also offers its customers the option of having individual loading stations, cutting tables and various other machining centers linked to fully automated production lines. These are then controlled by Siemens IPC 677C industrial computers, which communicate with the production line’s higher-level control system via Profinet. The Profinet connection is used to send control commands for operating the machines and to gather production data.