

# Comment

## **FIT Cancelled – New Dates Announced**

The FIT Show organisers have announced the September 2021 exhibition will be abandoned, with the event moving to May 2022, in response to the ongoing uncertainty surrounding Covid-19.

I have to say that moving the industry's major exhibition twice because of Covid has stretched the team behind the event to remarkable levels – it is not just a case of saying 'OK let's move the dates', there has been huge negotiations with the exhibition hall owners and consultation with the exhibitors along with having to keep the industry media on side.

The Installer and sister publication, The Fabricator had taken a large hospitality area – we were fully in favour of moving the show to May and will continue to support the FIT Show wholeheartedly. The industry needs a large gathering of manufacturers exhibiting the best products they can supply to visitors keen to expand the range of products they can add into their portfolios.

The Installer and The Fabricator also applaud the decision to keep the FIT Show as a biennial event after it has reconvened in 2022. It would have been easy to use the pandemic as an excuse to run again in 2023 and then even 2024 – but the organisers have put the industry first with the recognition that manufacturers can only develop new products on a two year cycle (with FIT as the focus to get them ready) and visitors come to see new products not what they saw last year.

An exhibition organiser putting the needs of the industry first – whatever next?

## **Post-Lockdown Boom Boosts Expansion**

Ultraframe, like a number of companies in the sector, has announced plans to expand its workforce and cited the post-lockdown boom as a driver. Another reason for moving FIT was the idea that installers and their fabricators are so busy at the moment they don't really have the appetite for taking on new products until they have cleared the backlog of opportunities. However, in this issue's Doors Feature and our Marketing Column, both authors suggest the wise will be making plans for when the boom ultimately settles back to more normal trading conditions. Both advise getting your marketing strategies in place now so the trading curve is not as steep as it might be for some of your unprepared rivals.

## **GGF Urges Resolution Of Product Marking Crisis**

The Glass and Glazing Federation has written to three different government departments urging a resolution to the looming crisis over product compliance, namely UKCA marking and CE marking. I have to recommend reading this story on our news pages as it beggars belief how complicated it has now become. There was a simple solution to this problem (to agree to pretty well leave things as they were) – but no, the bureaucrats of the UK and Brussels (and they are just as bad as each other in my opinion) decided on a tit for tat basis to make the whole process as much like It's A Knockout in paper form as they possibly could. Apologies to younger readers who have no idea what a deliberate farce It's A Knockout was – ask your parents.

**Brian J. Shillibeer, Editor**

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