

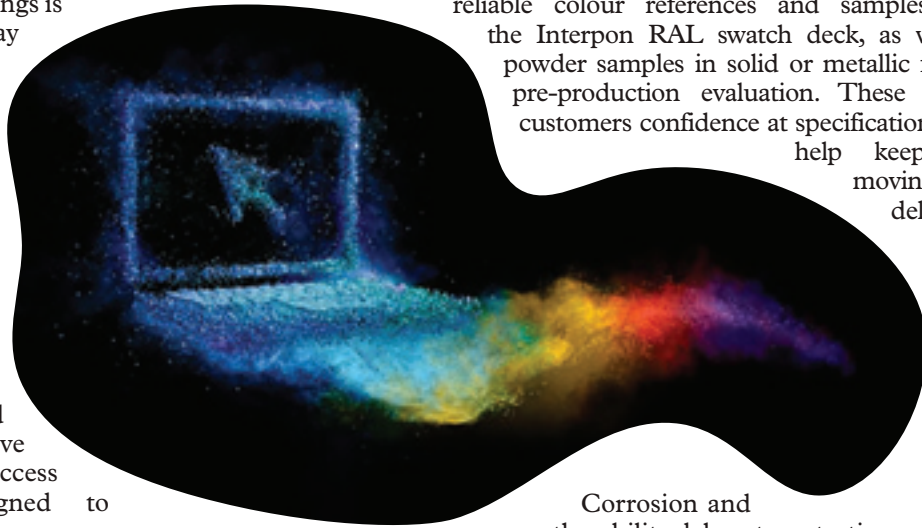
Powder coat at a click

AkzoNobel Powder Coatings is helping customers stay competitive and keep production moving by expanding My Interpon Portal with a powerful range of professional services that can now be purchased directly online. Available to customers with a My Interpon Portal account in the United Kingdom, France, Italy and Spain, the services give powder coaters fast, direct access to expert support aligned to operational needs.

The expanded offer brings together technical, laboratory and sustainability services that support faster decisions, smoother production and high-confidence results on the coating line. From bespoke colour development and lab powder samples to performance testing, technical audits, training and advanced application optimisation, each service is built to help customers perform at their best, even under the most demanding conditions. Sustainability analysis tools further enable coaters to understand, measure and reduce environmental impact, while also unlocking productivity gains.

Available services include tailored colour development,

reliable colour references and samples such as the Interpon RAL swatch deck, as well as lab powder samples in solid or metallic finishes for pre-production evaluation. These tools give customers confidence at specification stage and help keep projects moving without delay.



Corrosion and weatherability laboratory testing can also be ordered online, providing robust performance data to support product qualification and specification decisions. Technical audits, oven curing recording and advanced analysis of reciprocator and application-gun setup, using coating AI's exclusive, AI-powered Flightpath Pro software to help improve efficiency, optimise product usage and reduce quality issues across the coating process. □

www.akzonobel.com/en



Pioneer Trading Company has premiered the launch of its Gerda steel and aluminium residential door TV commercial. The premier was announced to the trade, in readiness for nationwide broadcast this spring. This investment is designed to drive greater brand awareness for its customer network by making the Gerda name familiar to homeowners.

The decision to invest in a TV commercial comes after three years of building the Gerda brand since it was first launched at FIT Show 2023. Manufactured in Poland, the door has filled a vital niche in the market, with an engineered structure and high performance at a more affordable price. The commercial focuses on the emotional connection a family has to the front door, centering around the Gerda 'thunk' that has become synonymous with the brand.

Pioneer managing director Danny Williams says: "We launched the 'Love the Thunk' concept last year, and the strapline has become affiliated with the Gerda brand in search engines and Ai searches. We now want to capitalise on that progress." □

www.pioneertc.com/

Sound the alarm

The 2.0% fall in construction output in the three months to January 2026, as reported in the latest figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS), should set alarm bells ringing for an industry already under strain, says the Federation of Master Builders (FMB).

Brian Berry, chief executive of the FMB, says: "Alarm bells should be ringing loudly after another fall in overall construction output, marking the fourth consecutive drop in the three-month figures. The steep decline in private new housing is especially worrying, as this is where we need momentum if we're to even get close to the government's target of 1.5 million new homes. Taken alongside a stagnating wider economy, with 0% growth this month, these figures suggest that confidence is draining away from the sector at a critical moment."

Berry concluded: "It is telling that the only area showing growth at the start of the year was repair, maintenance and improvement work, which is largely carried out by micro companies, although even this output has dropped, overall, in the last three months. This shows that the nation's small builders are propping up construction output as a whole, but they cannot shoulder the burden alone. If the government wants to get construction back on its feet, it must push forward with its changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) quickly and ensure local authority planning



teams are adequately staffed to ensure other areas like housing can push on with delivery." □

www.fmb.org.uk

A third and a three

The Automatic Door Suppliers Association (ADSA) is sponsoring the product design and innovation – electronic award at the AI Specification Awards 2026 for the third time, reinforcing its ongoing commitment to innovation in access control and automation.

Three entries have been shortlisted showcasing electronic solutions designed to enhance performance, security and user experience within building design.

The category recognises cutting-edge developments in electronic access control and automation, highlighting innovations that enhance performance, security and usability within modern building design.

Three entries have been shortlisted for the award:

- ES8100 V-Lock – ASSA ABLOY Opening Solutions

- Finfort Smart Auto-Deadbolt Nightlatch – FinFort

- GU DTN80 UFO – Automatic Underfloor Operator – Gretsch-Unitas

These innovations could help reshape the way buildings are secured and accessed, while supporting the increasing demand for integrated architectural and technological solutions.

The winner will be announced at the AI Specification Awards ceremony on Friday 15 May 2026 at IET London: Savoy Place. □

www.gai.org.uk



QR code of conduct

Qualicoat UK and Ireland has added a QR code to its member certificates in a move which transforms a static certificate into a live verification tool. By scanning the code, stakeholders can instantly verify Qualicoat member credentials for complete traceability and assurance.

This investment supports competent decision making, helping to prevent errors and misrepresentation, or non-compliant suppliers being specified, and enables specifiers to select suppliers quickly and with confidence.

This initiative forms part of a wider programme of continuous improvement, ensuring the Qualicoat quality label remains robust, relevant and trusted.

Chris Mansfield, chair of Qualicoat UK and Ireland says: “As a quality label organisation, we value trust and transparency. Possession of a printed or digital certificate alone does not necessarily mean that a company or system currently holds a valid Qualicoat licence so, we have taken positive action to address this by adding a QR code to each Qualicoat certificate which links to the member’s profile.

“This addition aligns our certification with modern demands. The construction industry is under pressure to demonstrate compliance and competency, and decision makers need evidence not just claims. Our QR code provides practical support for those responsible for due



diligence and compliance. Better still, verification can now be completed in seconds, saving time across specification, procurement and audit processes.”

By scanning the QR code, users are redirected to the relevant record in the Qualicoat QCT360 database, where the current validity status can be confirmed. If valid, the user can access key information, including licence number and type, certification year and expiry. This additional transparency also helps specifiers identify established and experienced supply chain partners. □

www.qualicoatuki.org

It's a breeze

ERA has launched a new flush fit trickle vent. The vent is suited for bi-fold doors and ERA says its streamlined design allows doors to open and close without obstruction. Incorporating two internal canopies for simple control of each section independently, the dual-pivot hinge allows maximum canopy adjustment, enabling smooth and precise airflow direction for enhanced user comfort.

According to ERA the flush fit trickle vent eliminates the need to fit any additional header door sections or install obtrusive surface-mounted ventilation. The vent comes supplied with fixing clips to be pushed



into place for quick and easy installation.

The new design has been developed to meet the requirements of the Building Regulations part F1:2010 and approved doc F, with routing requirements of 16 x 364mm to achieve 2700mm² EQA per installed vent. For ultimate customer satisfaction, it also offers reduced external noise, even with the vents fully open.

The flush fit trickle vent is available in five colours: white, black, anthracite grey, black/white, and anthracite grey/white. On mixed vent colour options, the external vent is finished in black or anthracite grey to mirror the external profile colour, and white on the internal vent.

The new design is compatible with aluminium, PVC-U, and timber door and window systems. It carries a one year mechanical guarantee. □

www.eraeverywhere.com

Mullion for minimalist

Modplan has reported continued growth in demand for its Veka Omnia range. Liam Isaac, head of sales and marketing at Modplan, says: “Since introducing Omnia to our product portfolio, the response from customers has been extremely positive. They value the system’s clean sightlines, premium appearance and design flexibility, which makes it suitable for both contemporary projects and heritage-style properties.”

The Omnia system has quickly gained traction thanks to its refined design features. At the heart of the system is a zero sight-line mullion that delivers a clean and expansive appearance, while invisible mullion options allow installers to achieve an even more minimalist aesthetic.

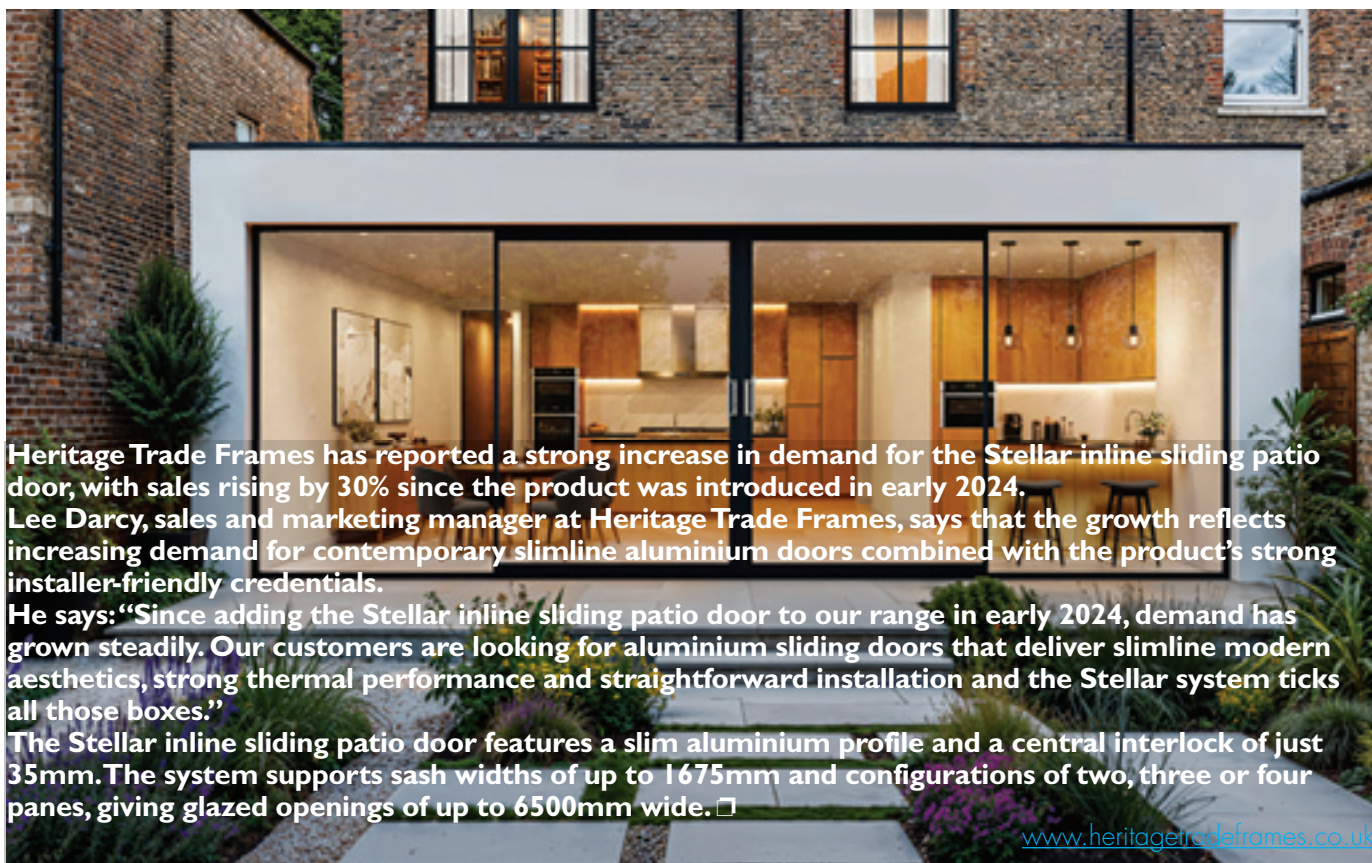
Isaac says: “Omnia offers a combination of flush styling, advanced design and installation versatility. It’s a flush window and door system that helps our customers deliver the high-end look homeowners increasingly expect, without compromising on performance.”

To support growing demand, Modplan manufactures the full Omnia suite including casement windows, tilt-and-turn windows, French doors and residential doors which it manufactures at its Newport fabrication facilities. Modplan currently offers Omnia products on a three-week turnaround.

Isaac says: “Reliable lead times are critical for our customers. By maintaining a consistent three-week turnaround across the Omnia range, we are helping them to keep projects moving while continuing to deliver the quality and service they associate with Modplan.” □



www.modplan.co.uk



Heritage Trade Frames has reported a strong increase in demand for the Stellar inline sliding patio door, with sales rising by 30% since the product was introduced in early 2024.

Lee Darcy, sales and marketing manager at Heritage Trade Frames, says that the growth reflects increasing demand for contemporary slimline aluminium doors combined with the product’s strong installer-friendly credentials.

He says: “Since adding the Stellar inline sliding patio door to our range in early 2024, demand has grown steadily. Our customers are looking for aluminium sliding doors that deliver slimline modern aesthetics, strong thermal performance and straightforward installation and the Stellar system ticks all those boxes.”

The Stellar inline sliding patio door features a slim aluminium profile and a central interlock of just 35mm. The system supports sash widths of up to 1675mm and configurations of two, three or four panes, giving glazed openings of up to 6500mm wide. □

www.heritagetradeframes.co.uk

UTF beats the niche

Shropshire-based fabricator, Universal Trade Frames (UTF), has strengthened its Spectus vertical sliding (VS) window offer, achieving an A+ window energy rating (WER) as standard.

Following independent re-testing and validation, the upgraded specification delivers a U-value of 1.4 on VS windows (1.3 on casement), using UTF's standard glass and reinforcement setup, with no need for complex glass upgrades or niche configurations to hit A+ according to UTF.

The company achieves this with RCM reinforcing welded into the profile, creating extra chambers that aren't present in bare extrusions.

According to UTF this construction improves thermal performance, screw retention and overall robustness while staying within a familiar Spectus VS platform.



Standard specification includes low iron, LowE, warm edge glazing.

“Our A+ WER rated VS puts theory into practice with boosted energy efficiency that brings real-life benefits to end-users by improving comfort and lowering energy bills,” said Richard Hammond, sales director at Universal Trade Frames.

“While many of our competitors essentially sell the same base system as us, they don't offer UTF's tested and verified A+ configuration and reinforcement. This means installers currently buying the Spectus VS elsewhere can instantly upgrade WER and performance by switching to UTF, without the hassle and expense of changing profile.

“In a nutshell, our A+ WER VS offer translates to a clear, sellable advantage for installers and fabricators who want to offer their customers better performance – and

that's what makes it really stand out.” □

www.utf.co.uk

Raising the arch

With arched frames emerging as a key design trend last year, Sheerline Bespoke is helping fabricators meet rising demand without adding complexity to their operations.

Arched, curved and shaped aluminium windows and doors have become increasingly popular in both new build and renovation projects. However, for many fabricators these non-standard designs can disrupt production, require specialist machinery and fall outside their everyday focus.

Sheerline Bespoke's in-house profile bending service is designed to remove those barriers and assist fabricators, making supplying shaped frames a hassle-free option.

“With demand growing for arched aluminium windows and doors, it's only natural that fabricators are being asked to supply more complex designs,” says



Chris Cooke, commercial director at Sheerline Bespoke. “Our specialist bending service enables them to order perfectly manufactured arched, curved and shaped frames, without changing how they operate day-to-day.”

Manufactured using an advanced Tim-Ing profile bending machinery, frames are automated for precision and repeatable quality.

“Fabricators are often asked to supply complex products that take them away from their core work,” says Cooke. “Rather than investing in specialist machinery and software they'll rarely use, they can partner with us so low-volume or niche requirements no longer jeopardise quoting for an entire project.

“For fabricators, it means focusing on high-volume square frames while we take care of the rest.” □

www.sheerlinebespoke.com

Once upon a door

DoorCo announces the latest addition to its One composite door range, Short Doors. Part of the BRiTDOR range, Short Doors is designed to satisfy the requirement for smaller entrances to older properties and outbuildings.

Ben Aspinall, DoorCo's commercial director, says: "We've created the Short Doors range to satisfy customer demand, and there's actually a staggering opportunity available.

"Around 20% of homes in the UK were built before 1919, which equates to 2-3 million homes, and many are likely to have non-standard entrances. Older UK properties were built with shorter and narrower door openings, meaning modern standard doors often don't fit. This is especially common in Victorian and Edwardian terraces, cottages, historic or listed buildings, and homes with timber frames or low ceilings. There is also a big demand for better security on outbuildings, where households store their valuable tools.

"Due to improved home security pushing thieves



toward softer outside targets, there has been a sharp rise in thefts from garden sheds according to leading insurers.

"The Short Doors range has been developed using the BRiTDOR slab, but specifically re-engineered to offer in varying sizing options with minimum widths of 332mm and minimum heights of ,555mm. □

www.door-co.com

Double-bang for you buck

Sheerline has launched SheerGlide its new inline patio door which, it says, features new technology and completes its residential range.

According to a Sheerline spokesman, SheerGlide delivers solutions to common issues associated with inline patios. In the past, it has been problematic for inline patio systems to combine thermal performance and security. Sheerline claims that its patent pending single component interlock TwinLock overcomes this problem. Developed in-house, Sheerline says it is strong, slim, integrated into every door, and features a bi-directional thermal break which offers U-values of 1.4 and 1.0 W/m²K.

The interlock is also non-bonded to make it easier to manufacture, transport, and install.

The Sheerline spokesman says that the number of components required has been reduced, and that ready-to-fabricate kits are available to Sheerline customers.

Roger Hartshorn, Garner Aluminium Extrusions chairman, says: "The launch of SheerGlide marks an important milestone both personally and professionally; it completes our residential range, and it is the first product launched under our new technical and design director, Ben Hartshorn."



Ben Hartshorn says: "By launching SheerGlide, we are ensuring we truly offer something for every project. Patio doors – including our Prestige lift and slide – have been rising in popularity over the past few years, and this trend is unlikely to change as it offers the aesthetic people see on Grand Designs and across social media." □

www.sheerline.com