

# Forwards and backwards

**Edgetech managing director Chris Alderson took to the stage to debate the future of fenestration at May's Glazing Summit. Alderson, who worked as European sales director for one of the world's biggest adhesive and sealant companies before joining Edgetech in 2016, discussed how innovation and technology is reshaping the sector as part of a panel of industry experts**

**A**t Edgetech, we've always prided ourselves on focusing on more than just our own day-to-day objectives as a business. We have got a long track record of helping drive the industry forward. We did this with our *Energy Efficiency in Focus* and *Triple Glazing Question* seminars and the Glazing Summit has given us a chance to do so again.

At the event, while acknowledging that innovation has, and is continuing to transform the way we work, I also stressed that fenestration is lagging behind other industries in many ways. Other sectors invest a significant proportion of their annual sales revenue in research and development – in the pharmaceuticals industry, the figure is in double digits. In glass and glazing, by contrast, it is estimated to be less than 1% – and that has undoubtedly held us back.

I also suggested a number of ways fenestration businesses can accelerate and incentivise innovation. At my previous employer, a percentage of our sales targets had to be fulfilled by selling new products, for example.

At Edgetech, we are focused on new product development, and we are also championing modern automated insulated glass manufacturing techniques. We are seeing other countries already investing significantly in manufacturing automation and the UK needs to embrace



**Chris Alderson**

these efficient manufacturing methods and technologies to be able to compete in the global marketplace and offset the widespread labour shortages.

There is no doubt that fenestration faces challenges in the years ahead but seeing the industry come together to intelligently discuss them at events like this makes me optimistic about the future. □

[www.edgetechig.co.uk](http://www.edgetechig.co.uk)

**Morley Glass & Glazing managing director Ian Short has helped provide Mill Field Primary School in Leeds with a new set of wheels after he raised more than £10K for children's charity Variety.**

Last year, Short trained for three months alongside professional dance partner Olivia Choi from the North Leeds Dance Academy before competing against nine other amateur dancers in Variety's Strictly Ballroom competition.

The pair wowed the judging panel with their samba and were crowned the winners on the evening. Best of all, the charity event raised a total of £39,500, enough to fund Mill Field's new Sunshine Coach.

Presenting the coach at the school Short said:

"The last year has been a fantastic journey for me, from quitting smoking and getting fit to learning to dance and losing over six stone in weight so far. To be able to present the new coach to teachers and students at Mill Field Primary School was a wonderful conclusion to the story." □



[www.morleyglass.co.uk](http://www.morleyglass.co.uk)

# Summit 2018



Andrew Scott

The first Glazing Summit conference was held on 22nd May and was attended by 400 business leaders from across the glass and glazing industry.

The conference had nine sessions including key-note speakers and panel discussions featuring some of the industry's most influential people.

Discussions ranged from materials and products to technology and innovation, with the final discussion of the day focused on mergers and acquisitions.

The keynotes speakers included Jade Greenhow from Insight Data who gave an expert overview of the industry and outlined further consolidation across all sectors.

A further speaker was economist Dr Walter Boettcher from Colliers International. He gave a powerful presentation on the UK economy and construction sector after Brexit.

The conference was organised by Insight Data and Purplex Marketing. CEO Andrew Scott says "This was breaking new ground, the industry has never had a major business conference but as the market matures and becomes more professional, a platform for CEO's and business leaders to come together, learn and share information has become paramount." □

[www.glazingsummit.co.uk](http://www.glazingsummit.co.uk)



AluFoldDirect has been named Manufacturing Company of the Year 2018 (under £25m) at the Made in the North West awards.

Picture shows the team collecting The award

The Fabricator 2018

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**GLASS & STRUCTURAL GLAZING**

# Fireproof



**Steve Bond (chairman of FRGG)**

Over the last year, fire safety within the construction industry has come under increased scrutiny and as a result the GGF Fire Resistant Glazing Group (FRGG) has upped the ante – raising greater awareness of best practice within fire-resistant glazing and increasing its presence with live exhibits at the FIREX show.

At FIREX, the Glass and Glazing Federation (GGF) will be underlining the principles of fire resistant glazing; and why building contractors, designers, architects and specifiers should ensure they are using experienced qualified companies to carry out the supply and installation of fire resistant glazing.

Steve Bond, chairman of FRGG says: “The subject of fire-resistance within construction has been a highly focused topic. As the leading voice of the industry, this was a great opportunity for the GGF to assist in identifying the use of fire resistant glazing. The exhibits at the stand displayed the before and after effects of a fire. There was also an exhibit from an actual fire event showing how the glass will function in such a situation.”

At FIREX, the GGF launched a newly revised edition of *A Guide to Best Practice in the Specification and Use of Fire-Resistant Glazed Systems* which clarifies the key elements associated with achieving a fire-resistance performance from a glazed system.

At the event the GGF handed out free copies of the amended *Fire Resistant Glazing Guide* (RRP £150) to the first 20 visitors to the GGF stand.

In addition, there was a video presentation showing how fire resistant glazing is installed properly and can provide valuable protection in the event of a fire.

GGF technical officer, Adrian Blaydon, delivered a presentation on ‘Fire-rated Glazing – Getting It Right, Getting it Wrong’ which highlighted the importance of fire resistant glazing and how glass plays its part in the fire safety strategy of a building. □

[www.ggf.org.uk](http://www.ggf.org.uk)