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NSG Group Expands Automotive Operations in South America

Following the publication of its Strategic Management Plan in November 2010, the NSG Group is proceeding with investments to support its expansion in key emerging markets. The South American automotive market is an important element in the Group's expansion strategy.

The Group's new laminating line at Caçapava (SP), Brazil was formally opened by Mike Fallon, President Automotive Worldwide, on 15 February 2011. Mike Fallon said 'The new line will increase our capacity in Brazil by around 50 percent, permitting the production of some 3.7 million windshields a year. The line should be in full production by the end of March 2011.

Brazil is a very important market for us, in which we been operating for some 30 years and have a high market share. The overall vehicle market in Brazil is growing strongly, with annual production expected to reach five million vehicles by 2014'.

In addition to the laminating line, work is well advanced on an additional toughening capacity at the Caçapava site. The toughening line will start up in December 2011, with full production planned for the end of March 2012. Both lines are being equipped with advanced technology currently used elsewhere in NSG's global network.

The NSG Group is also developing Automotive glazing Value Added/Satellite operations in several locations in Brazil and Argentina in order to improve service to customers in key areas including Sorocaba, Camaçari, Recife and Cordoba (Argentina). The Group is also planning to install 10 new Aftermarket Service Centers in the region over the next two years to service the growing automotive glass aftermarket.

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