The success story of ACX™ adhesive tapes extends to many application fields. Adhesive bonding of glass partitions is one chapter in that story. tesa has moved into a market niche in this area – and gained an important strategic partner in Saint-Gobain Glassolutions, a global player based in France.

From airports to hotels, restaurants, and company buildings, glass partitions are a fixture in modern interior architecture. They create a bright, friendly atmosphere while also damping noise. But the popular transparency these panels bring requires a sturdy and also visually appealing hold, especially when multiple elements are used in combination. This is a perfect job for tesa: The company launched additional thicknesses of transparent ACX™ adhesive tape on the market in mid-2013 with an eye to bonding glass partitions in enclosed spaces in a way that is aesthetically appealing, durable, and robust. “As we were extending the line, we deliberately looked for a market segment where we have a clear technological advantage over competitors,” explains Julia Hagenberg, the international product manager who was responsible for handling the launch.

The adhesive tapes in the tesa ACX™-705x series in particular enable transparent, secure, and fast adhesive bonding of glass to glass, either in butt joints, at an angle, or in a “T” joint. They can also be used to dependably affix glass panels to aluminum frames or in “H” profiles.

By promoting this application, tesa is also advancing a highly persuasive alternative to the widespread method of bonding glass partitions with silicone. There are several reasons: silicone creates thicker joints, tends to yellow over time when exposed to UV light, and can form waves through interaction with film-coated laminated safety glass. ACX™ adhesive tapes, on the other hand, are fast, clean, and economical to use, and there is no need for follow-up work due to factors such as excess adhesive squeezing out around the edges. Other benefits include transparency, high adhesive force, tensile force and resistance to the effects of light, temperature, and chemicals. But despite all of the product’s advantages and its existing use with glass partitions, Hagenberg says, “Silicone still dominates the market, so we have to have a positive effect on how customers and installation technicians think.”

By Jan Schütte

SAINT-GOBAIN

Saint-Gobain, which is represented in 64 countries, develops, produces, and markets innovative building materials and other high-performance materials. The company offers sustainable solutions for challenges in the fields of conserving energy and environmental protection. About 100,000 employees work across the company’s 185 affiliates. The group includes prominent brands such as Saint-Gobain Glassolutions, Saint-Gobain Building Insulation, Saint-Gobain Drywall, Saint-Gobain CarISBN, Saint-Gobain Grand Court, Saint-Gobain Building Solutions, and other construction materials. The French corporate group’s roots lie in glass production – its first involvement in another country came in 1853, when the company built a glass production facility in Mannheim, Germany.

The adhesive tapes in the tesa ACX™-705x series can be used not only for various kinds of glass-on-glass bonding, but also to affix glass panels to aluminum frames.

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