



Infra-Red monitoring of Glass Futures furnace heat-up from Ambient air to operating oxy-fuel 2025 Glass Problems Conference

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GFL furnace design

Main data

- Melting area: 20 m2

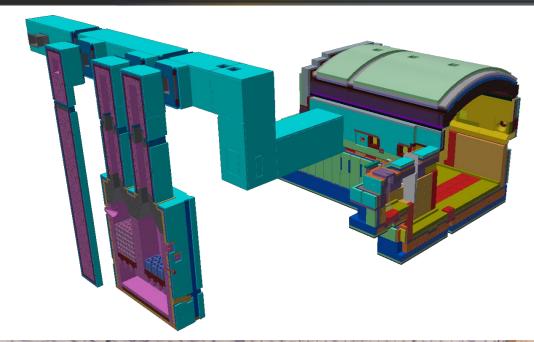
Nominal pull: 30 tpd

- Oxy combustion with different types of fuel, including natural gas, hydrogen and other sustainable fuels.

- Glass type: hollow AND flat!

- Test sections: one pocket in the tank for glass-contact refractory testing + room in the waste gas duct for checkers testing.

- Very big waste gas duct for a multi-purpose utilization of fumes.





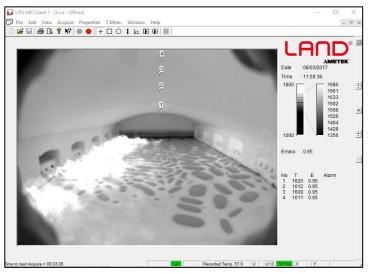
Infra-Red monitoring of Glass Futures furnace heat-up from Ambient air to operating oxy-fuel

Ben Simpson – LAND + Neil Simpson – Simpson Combustion and Energy



Background Glass Problems Conference Papers

- 2017 Cross Fired Furnace Optimisation for Record Pull
- 2018 End Fired Furnace NOx Emission Reduction
- 2019 Survey Tool and Glass Temp -Not Just a Pretty Picture
- 2020 Supporting Hot and Cold Furnace repairs
- 2021 In-Furnace Thermal Imaging Survey of a Float Furnace for Combustion Optimisation
- 2023 Improved Process Optimisation as logical start on the Decarbonisation Journey
- 2024 Infrared does not lie! We have just never seen it before in base of regenerators



EQUIPMENT USED:

NIR-b-2K GLASS - Near Infrared Borescope Glass Solution

- 1968x1476 resolution gives nearly
 3 million pixels data points
- Wide 95° x 71° field of view
- Interfacing options Open Data Interface, Modbus TCP, Moxa I/O unit
- Max, min and average temperatures with user-defined emissivity.

Cyclops C100L

- Portable Infrared Thermometer
- Industry Standard
- Verify spot temperatures
- 550 to 3000°C
- 1022 to 5432°F



LWIR-640

- Long-wavelength thermal imager
- High temperature measurements accuracy and repeatability
- -20 to 1500 °C
- -4 to 2732 °F
- Multiple I/O options



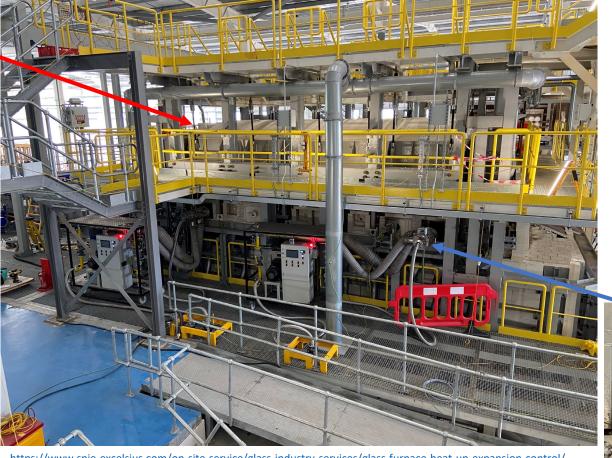
MWIR-640

- Mid-wavelength thermal imager
- Advanced spectral filtering
- 300 to 1800 °C
- 572 to 3271 °F
- Multiple I/O options

ImagePro -Advanced Image Processing and Controlling Software

Location of 2 Spie Heat- Up burners LWIR at Charging End MWIR/2K in Bridge Wall

SPIE



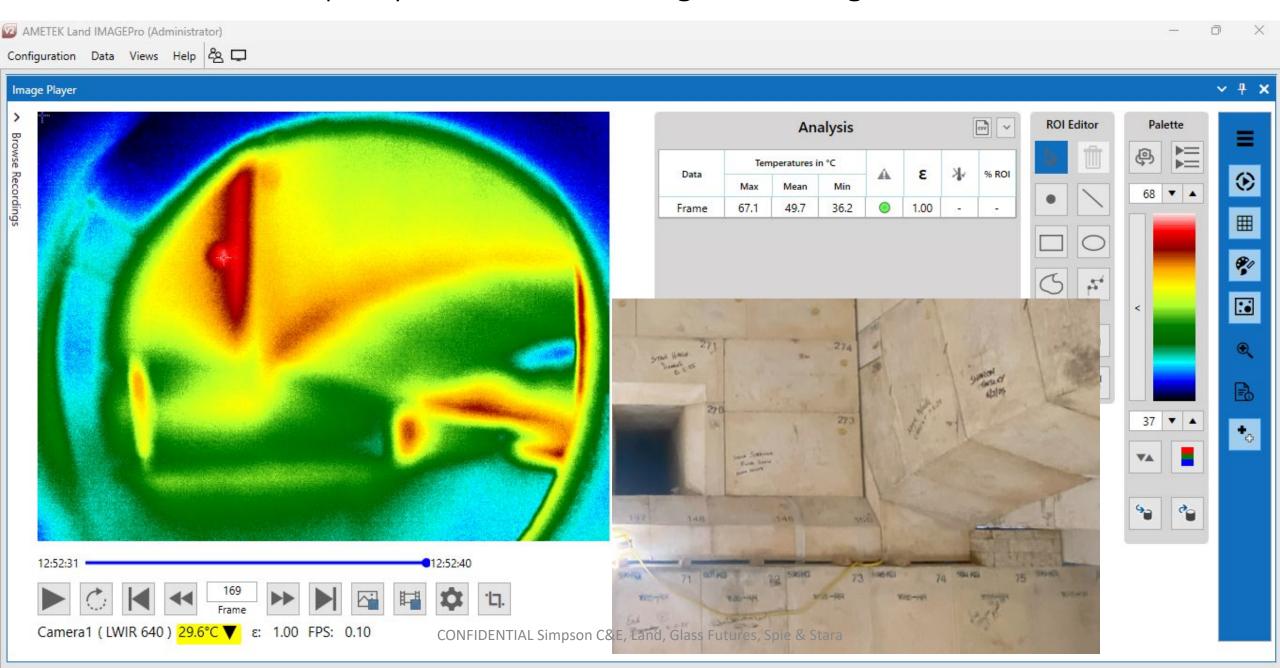




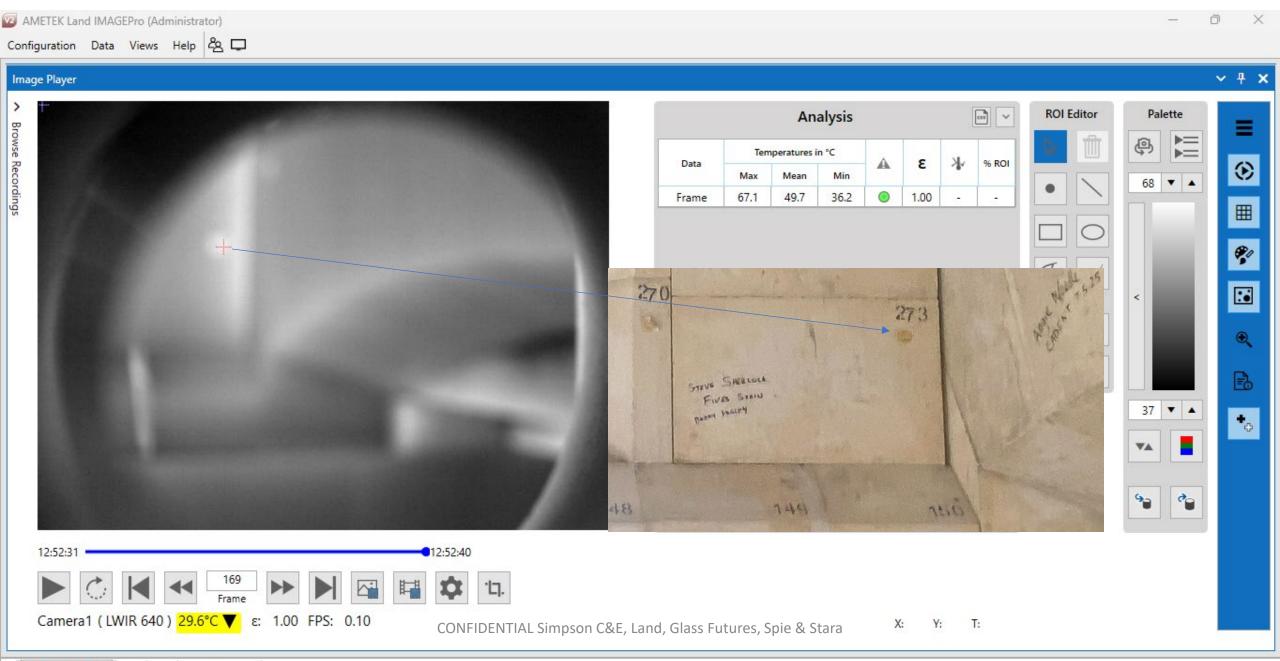
MWIR or 2K



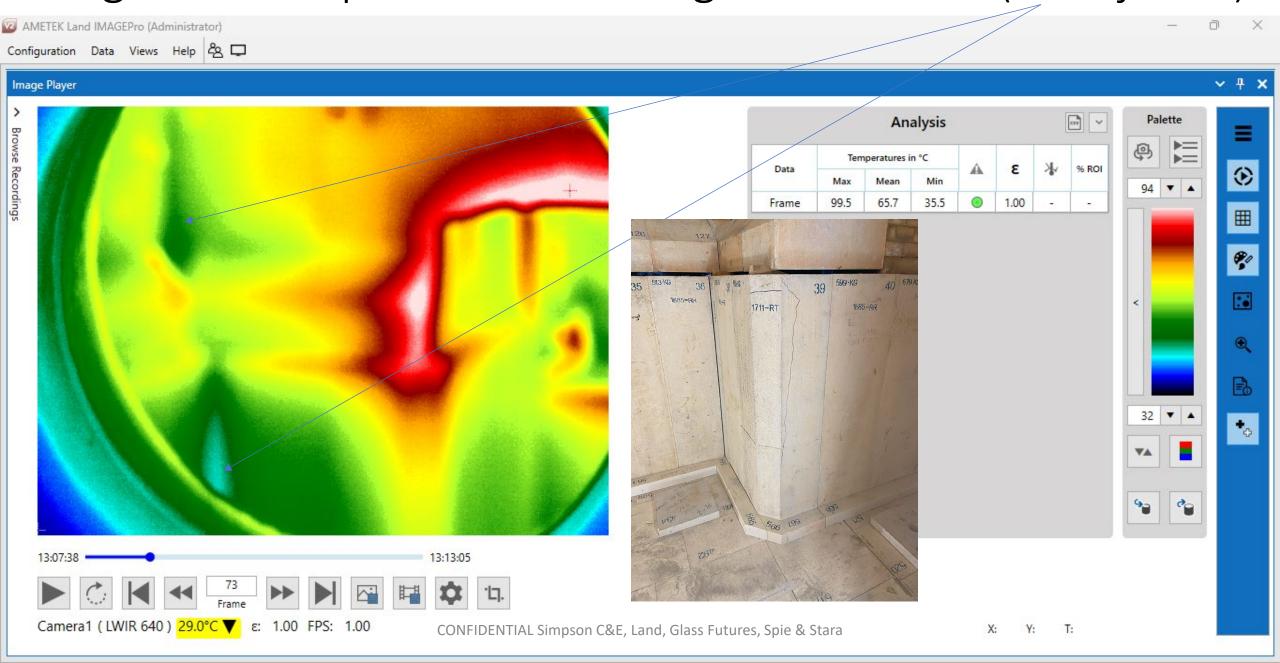
Glass Futures Heat-Up Day 1 Initial Recording 62*0.5Degree Isotherms



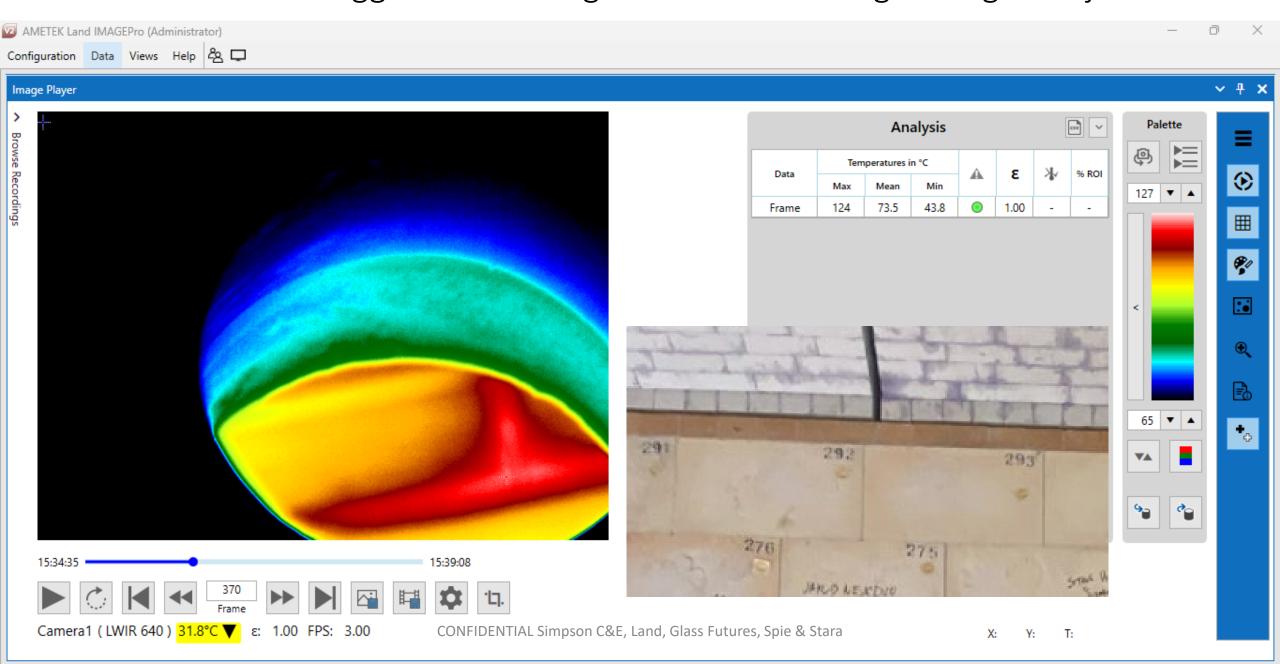
B&W 31Degree Delta Is this the "glue"?



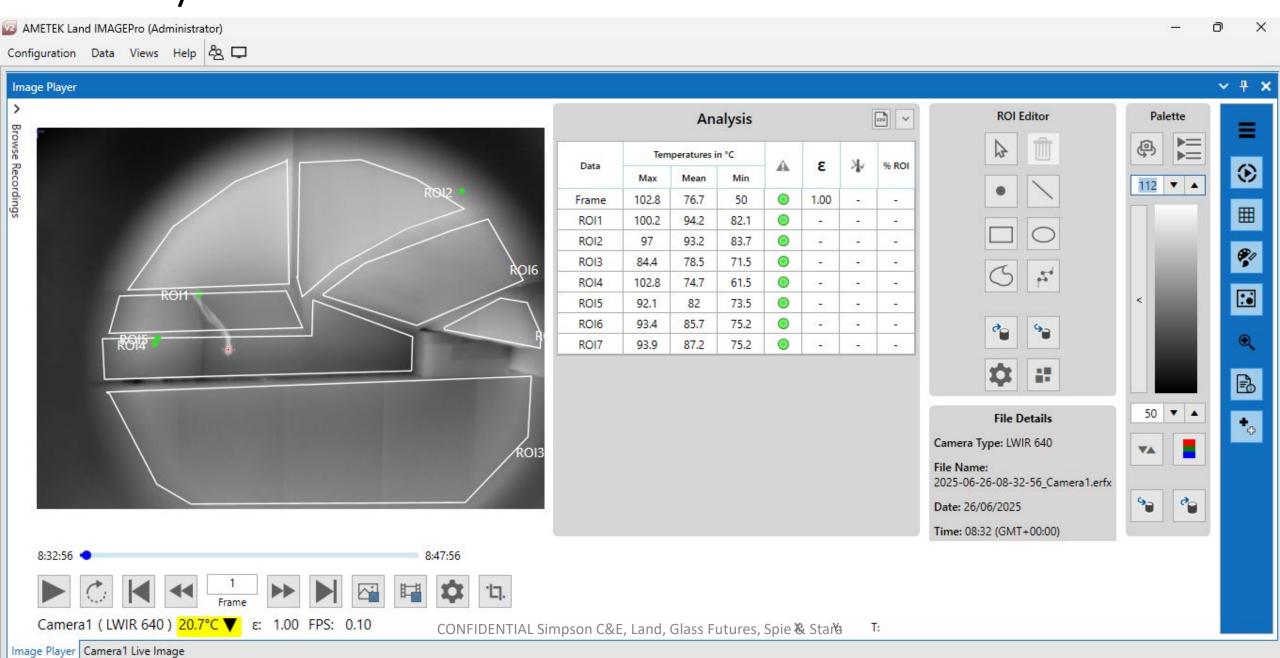
Using as a Transportable 62*1Degree Isotherm (Cold joints)



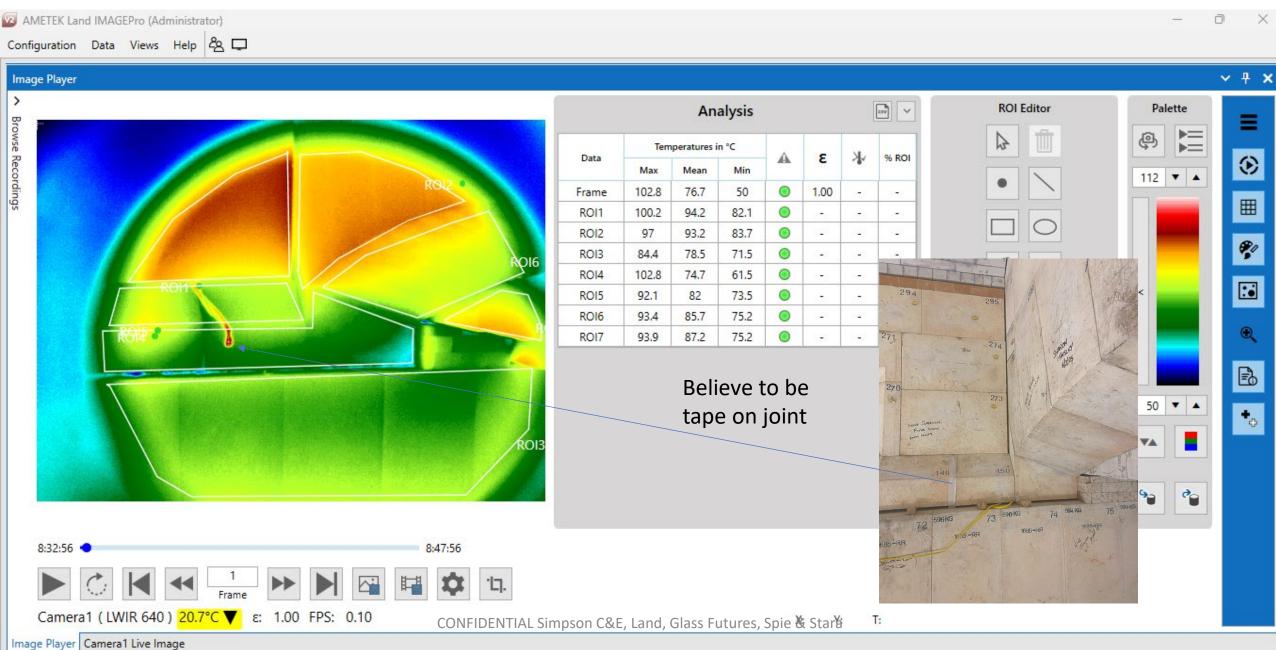
View of Crown Joint Suggests that the gases are exhausting through the joints



Day 2 – Camera Focussed



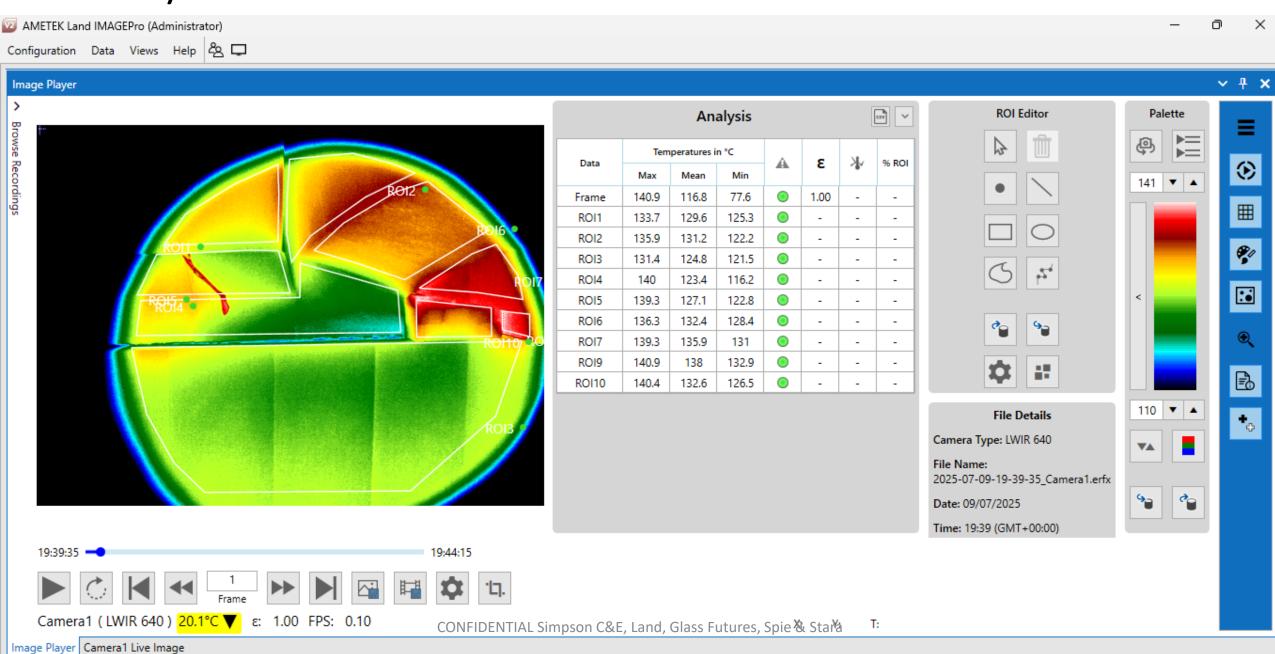
Day 2 am Initial Frame



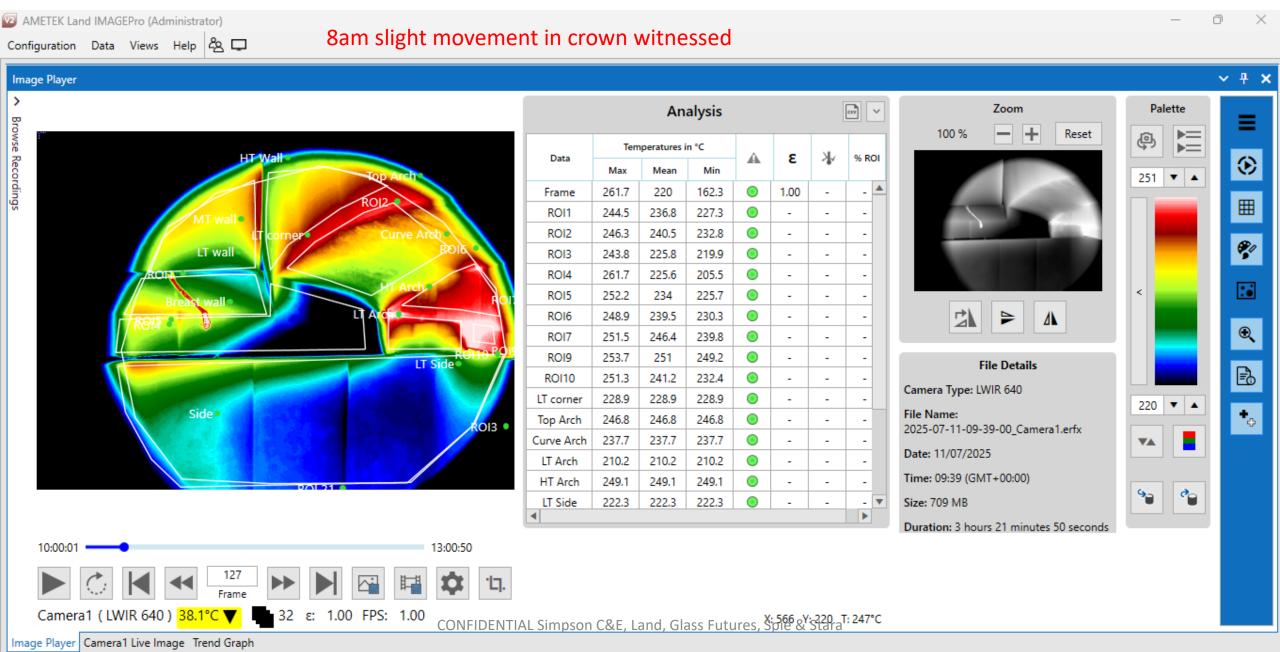
Force Majeur - Extended Dry Out due to utilities

- The Glass Futures furnace was a new building but built on a brown field site – site of UG Peasley bottle works.
- All utilities were new and there was a cooling water problem which due to the electrode holders meant that the furnace heat up was put on hold providing an extended dry out.
- On 9th July (Day 15) the heat up continued at 14.00.
- LWIR Recordings recommenced at 19.39
- At 10am and 10pm each day a snapshot and analysis was made.
- The full paper will show each analysis but only daily in the conference copy

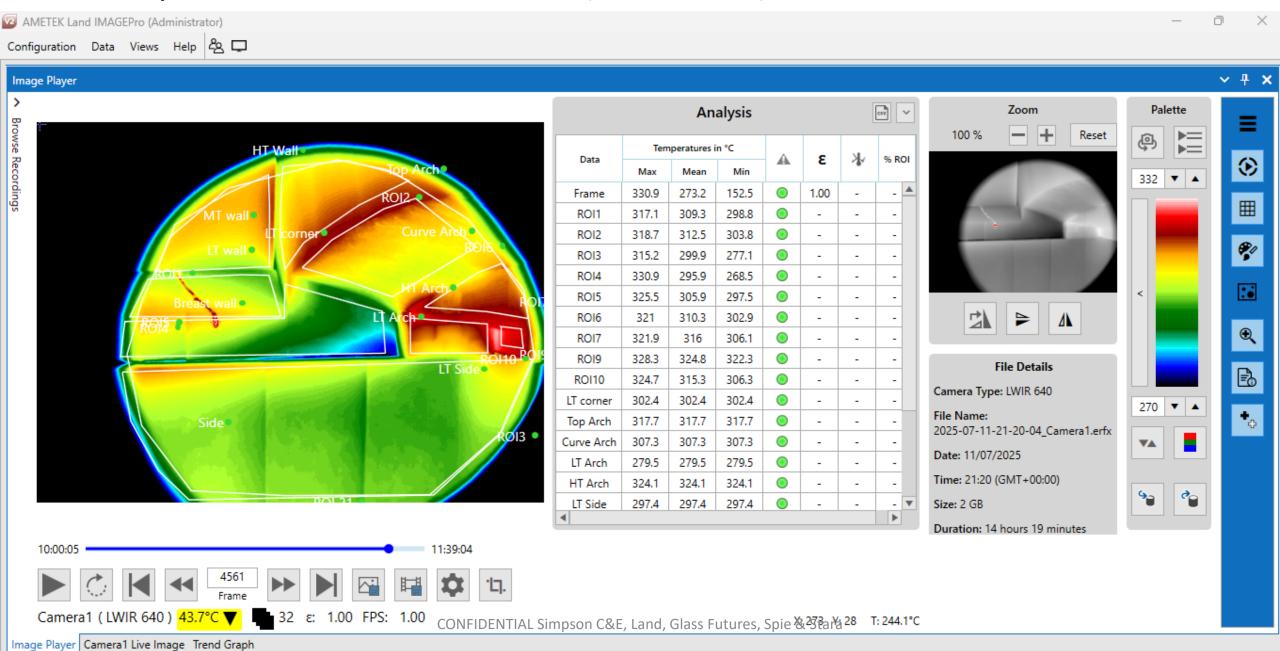
Day 15 - First Frame 110-141



Day 17 10am 220-251 (+45) Frame Max +48.5



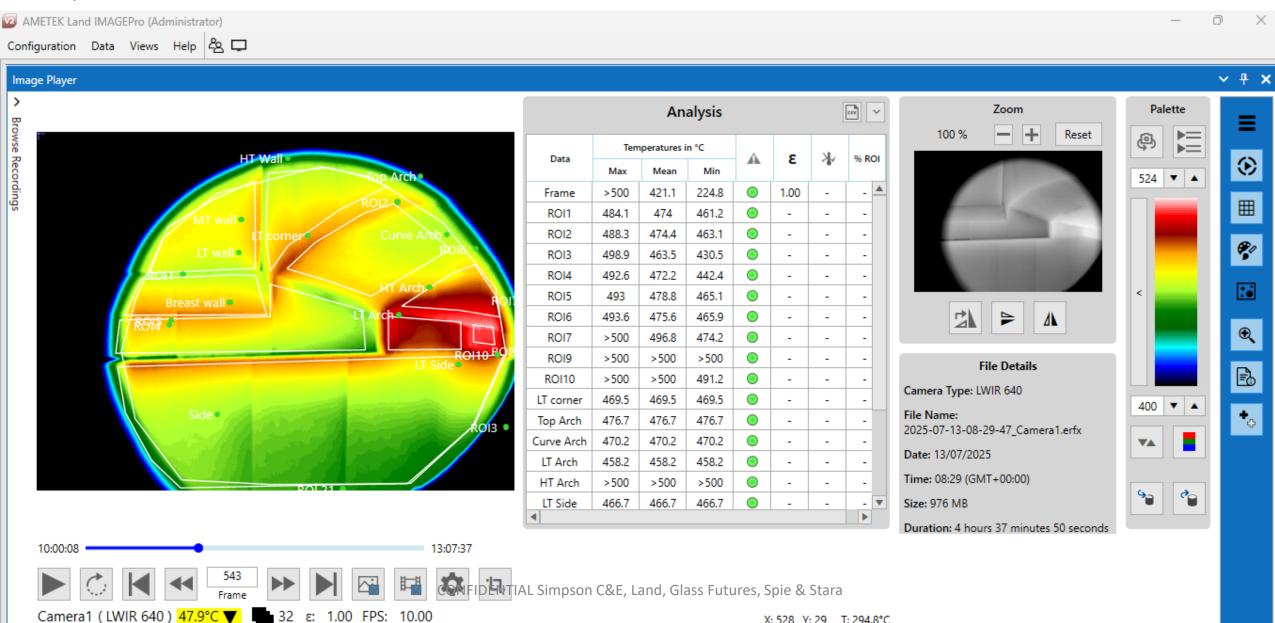
Day 18 10am 270-332 (+15+46) Frame Max +38.5



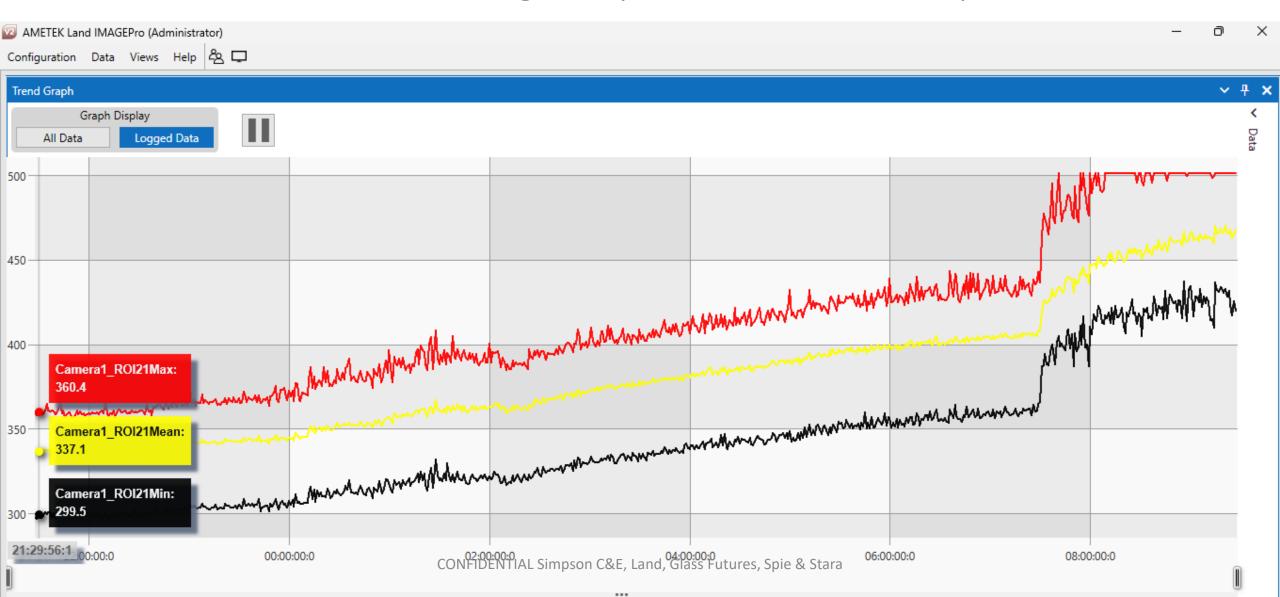
Day 18 Upset

- Spie Excelsius
 - AM Both burners 3000Nm3/hr Air (32% upstream 33% downstream)
 - 11am adjusting doghouse arch
 - 4pm Seeing some instability on temperatures
 - Evening Identified that two thermocouples had moved and so impacting the measurement
 - See fluctuations on MWIR

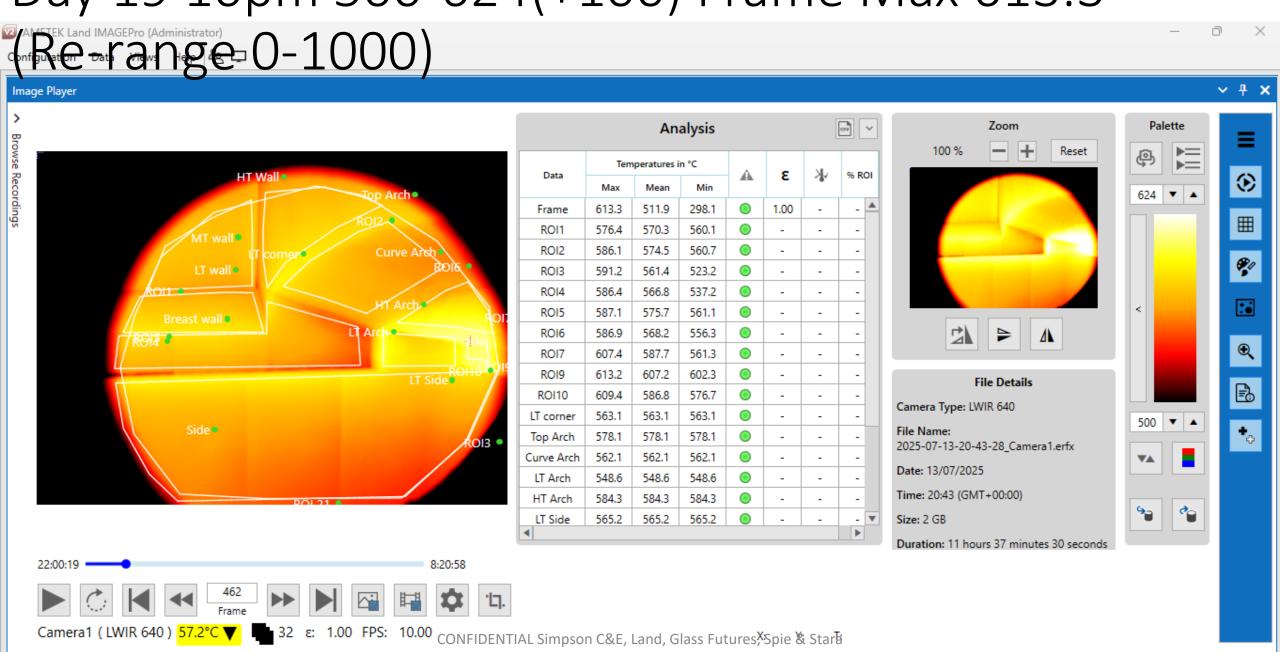
Day 19 10am 400-524(+100+62) Frame Max>500 (521)



Day 19 TrendBurner adjustments were made at around 14.00 as seen in the change in peak "flame" temperature.

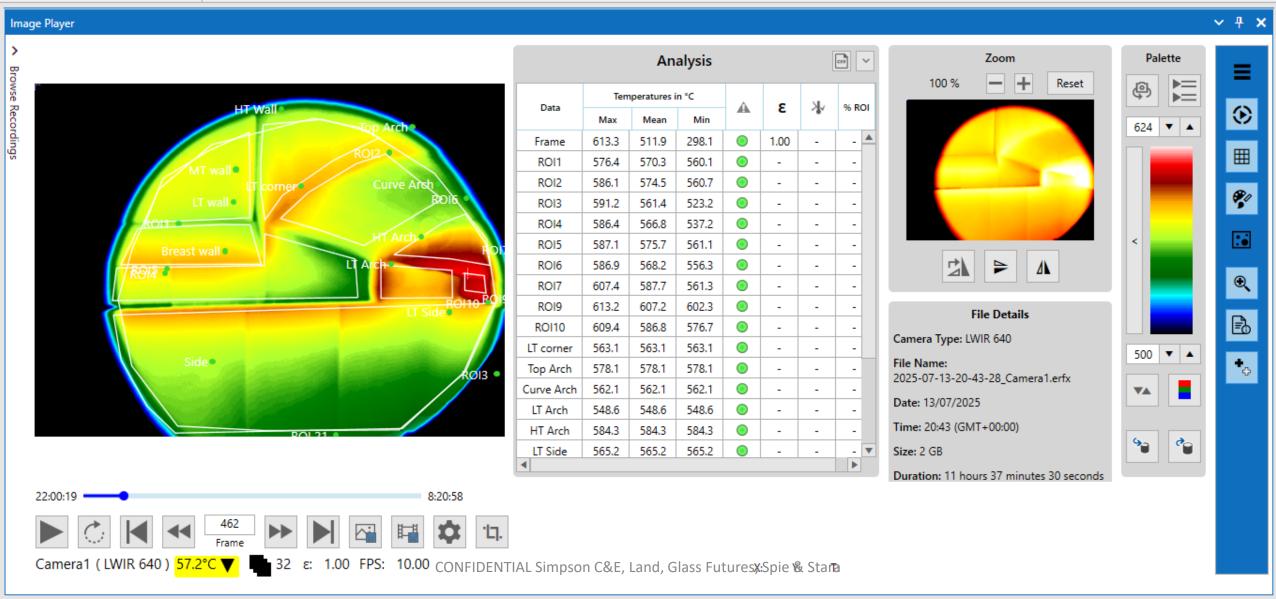


Day 19 10pm 500-624(+100) Frame Max 613.3

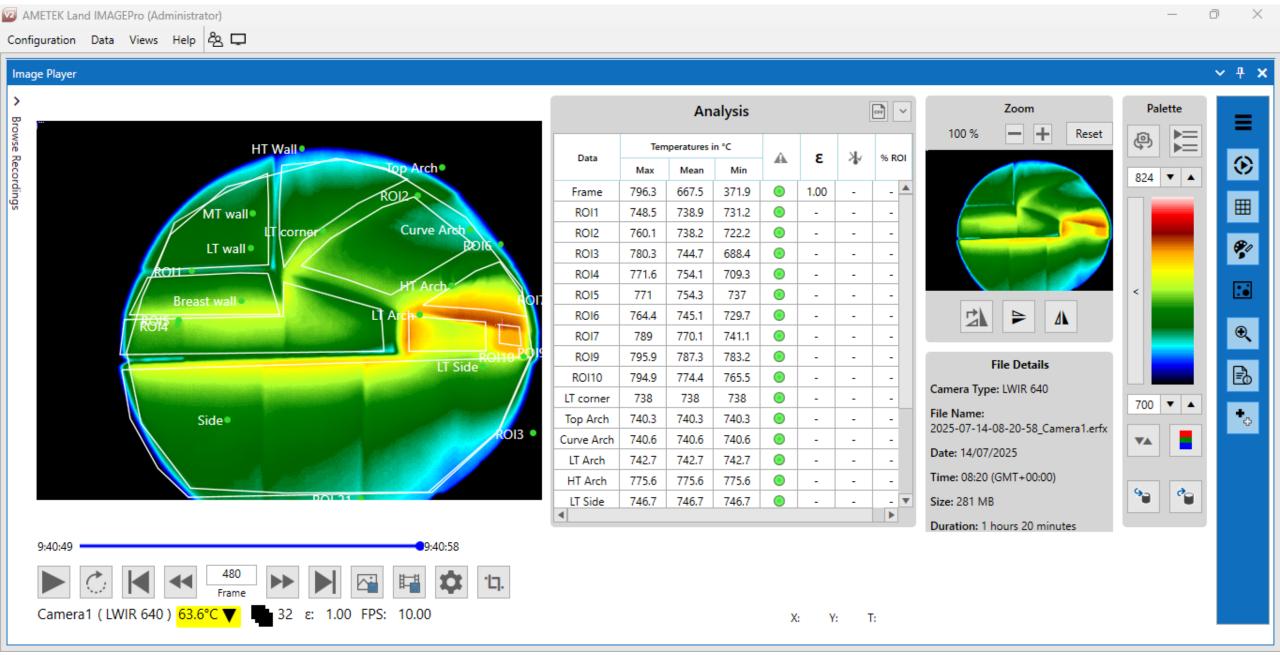


Day 19 10pm 500-624(+100) Frame Max 613.3





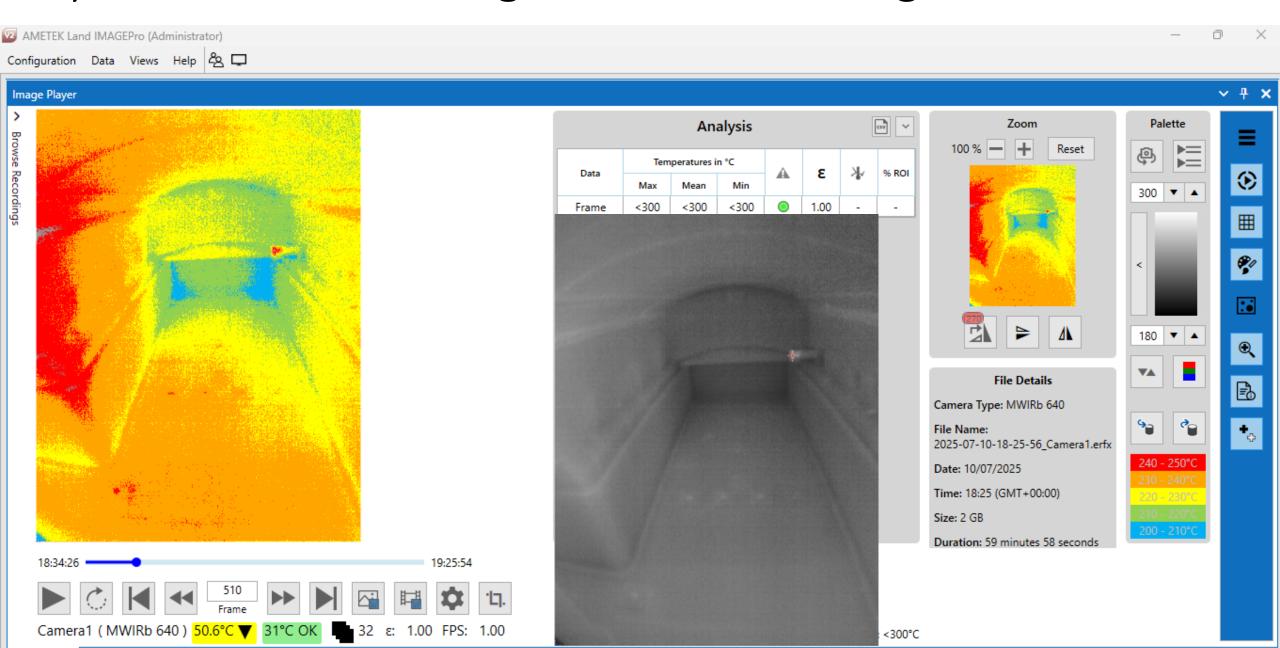
Day 20 10am 700-824(+200) Frame Max 796.3



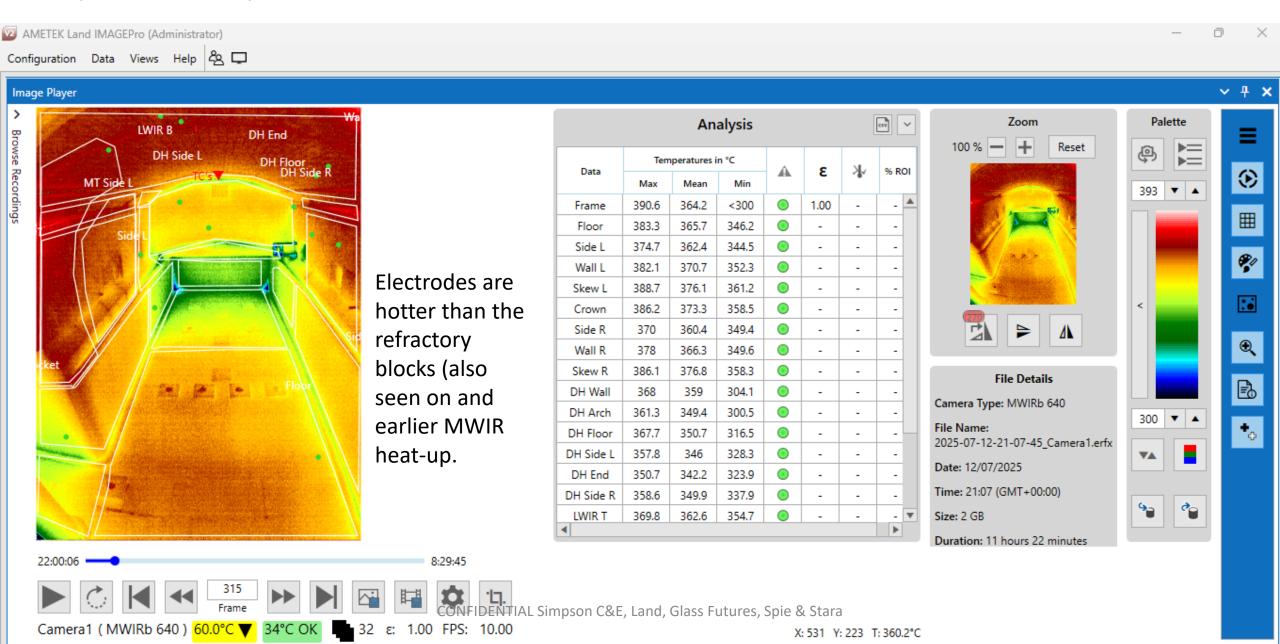
14th July LWIR Removed

- Decision made to remove the LWIR on Day 20
- Did not want to exceed the high temp range overnight
- MWIR had been installed on Day 16 (below instrument min range)
- Day 18 MWIR two doghouse corner areas still below 300
- Day 19 MWIR all areas in range of instrument
- Potential to relocate for glass leak detection.

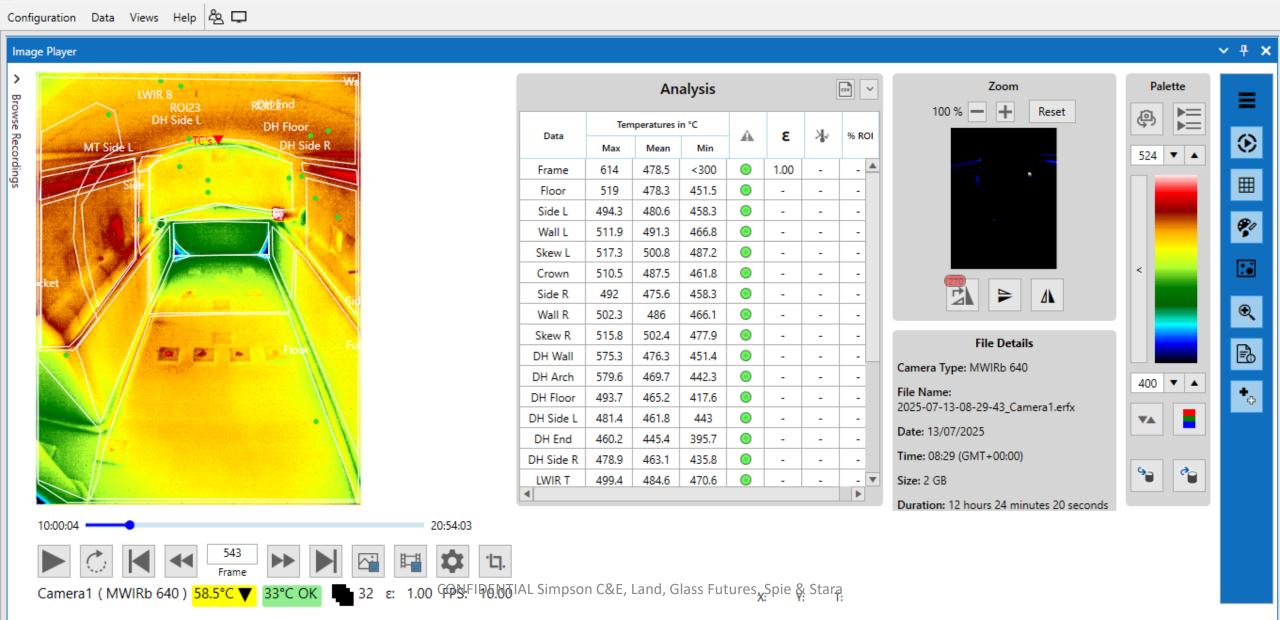
Day 16 First MWIR Images Below Inst Range200-250

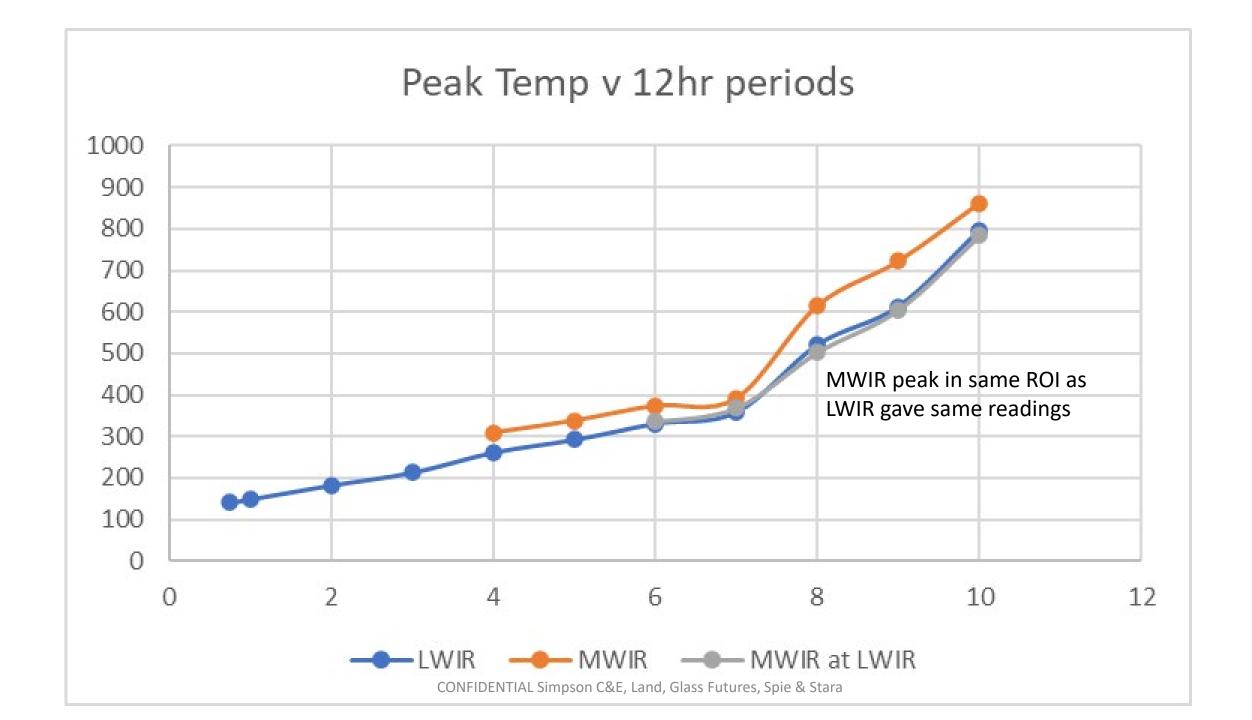


Day 18 10pm 300-393 (+28) Frame Max 391.5 (+27.9)



Day 19 10am 400-524 (+100) Frame Max 614

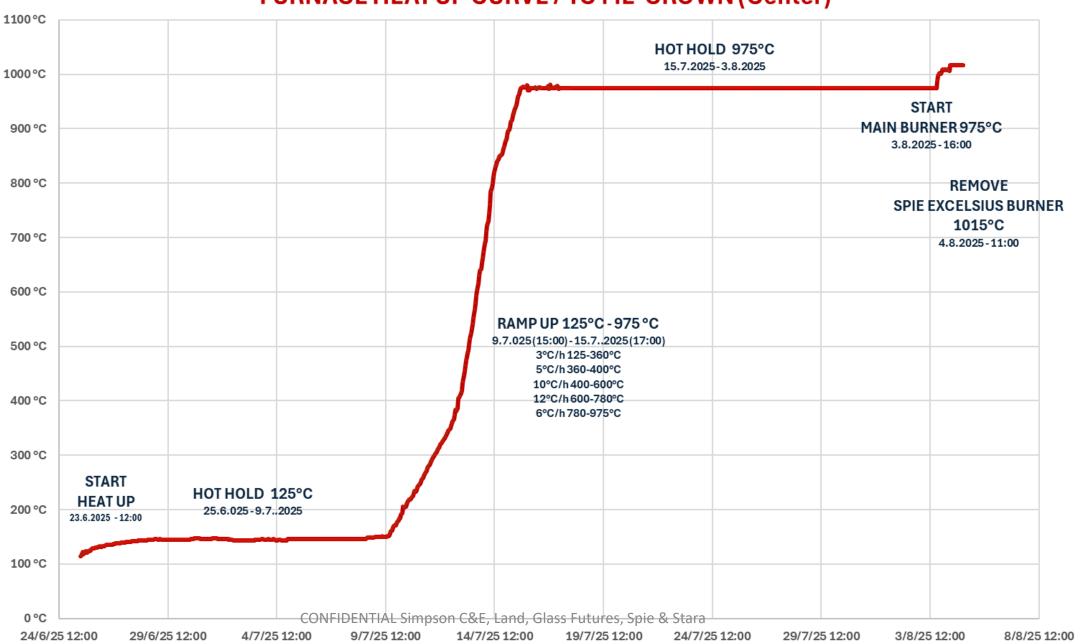




SPIE EXCELSIUS

116.23 GLASS FUTURES FURNACE HEAT UP CURVE / TC ME-CROWN (Center)





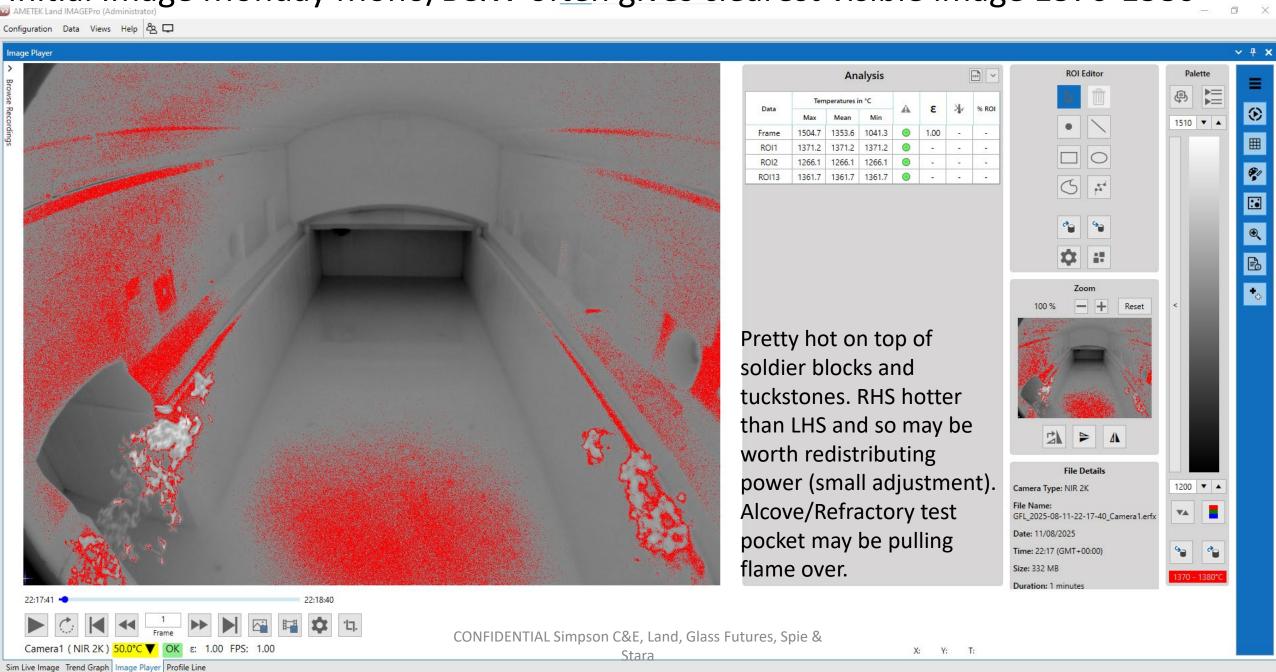
Observations and Lessons Learned Heat-Up

- Day 1 LWIR used in static and transportable mode
 - Identified hot spot on the blocks which was remains of a sticky label.
 - Perhaps opportunity to label blocks in future heat-up
 - Due to furnace pressure and exhaust issues the joints were initially hotter than the refractory face.
 - Suggest individual and discrete recordings for each location with cross-reference on timing.
- Day 2 LWIR re-focused and resolution of image improved significantly
 - Joint protection tape started to delaminate was still there day 19 at 260°
 - MWIR installed below range (300°C) of instrument but could identify thermal gradients using isotherms.
 - Suggest installing MWIR even earlier in future.
 - Electrodes are hotter than the refractory blocks (also seen on and earlier MWIR heat-up).
- Day 15 Onwards Avoid use of auto-range function but define temperature range to suit conditions
 - Upper joints such as skew were hot but cold at tuckstones.
 - MWIR peak temperature higher than LWIR due to wider field of view
 - MWIR peak in same ROI as LWIR gave same readings
 - LWIR required changing temperature range but a simple task in image pro
 - Two of the Spie Excelsius K-type thermocouples physically moved and change was identified in the MWIR.
 - 640 x 480 pixels = 300,000 optical temperature measurements on surfaces v multiple K-type gas temperature
- Never recommend a dissertation topic for a relative!

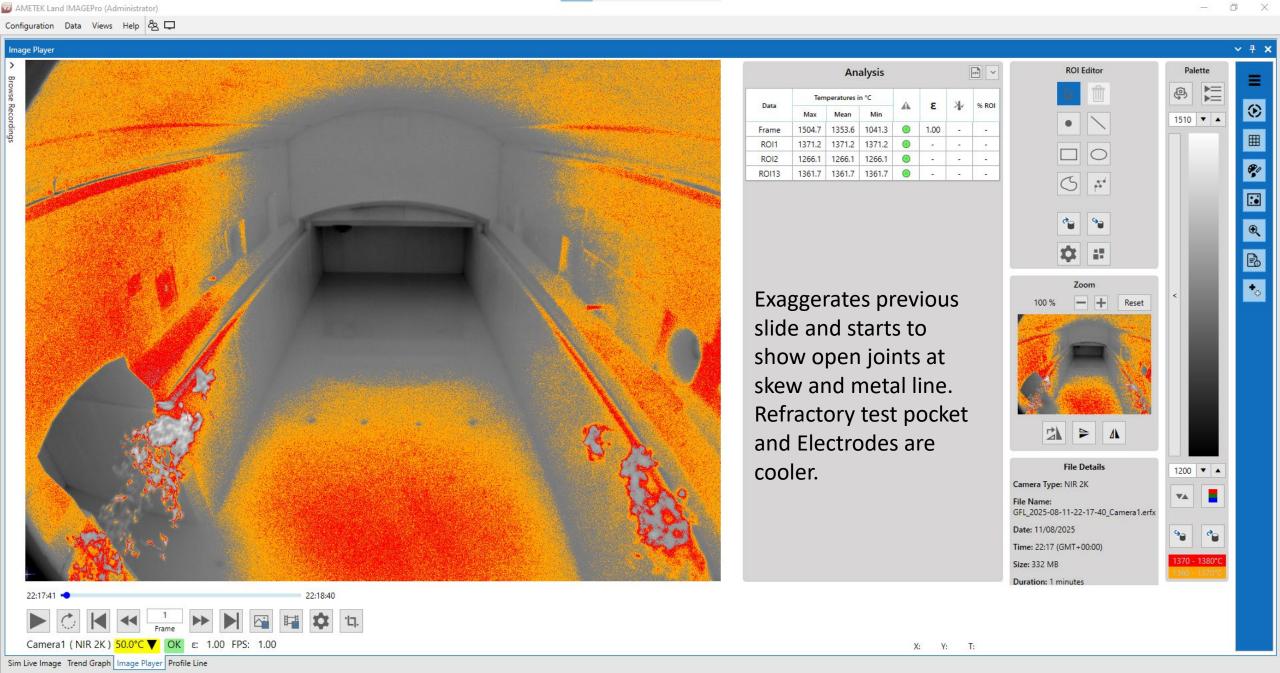
Force Majeur 2

- During the furnace heat-up and pre-commissioning of the batch plant and oxy gas train there were several challenges identified.
- A 2nd hot hold was performed
- The MWIR camera was required on another site trial and so removed
- A transition to main oxy burners commenced early august
- The Spie Excelsius charger was run briefly with around 2"(50mm) filled to cover the electrodes.
- The permanent production NIR B was commissioned by Mark Briggs on Monday 11th August

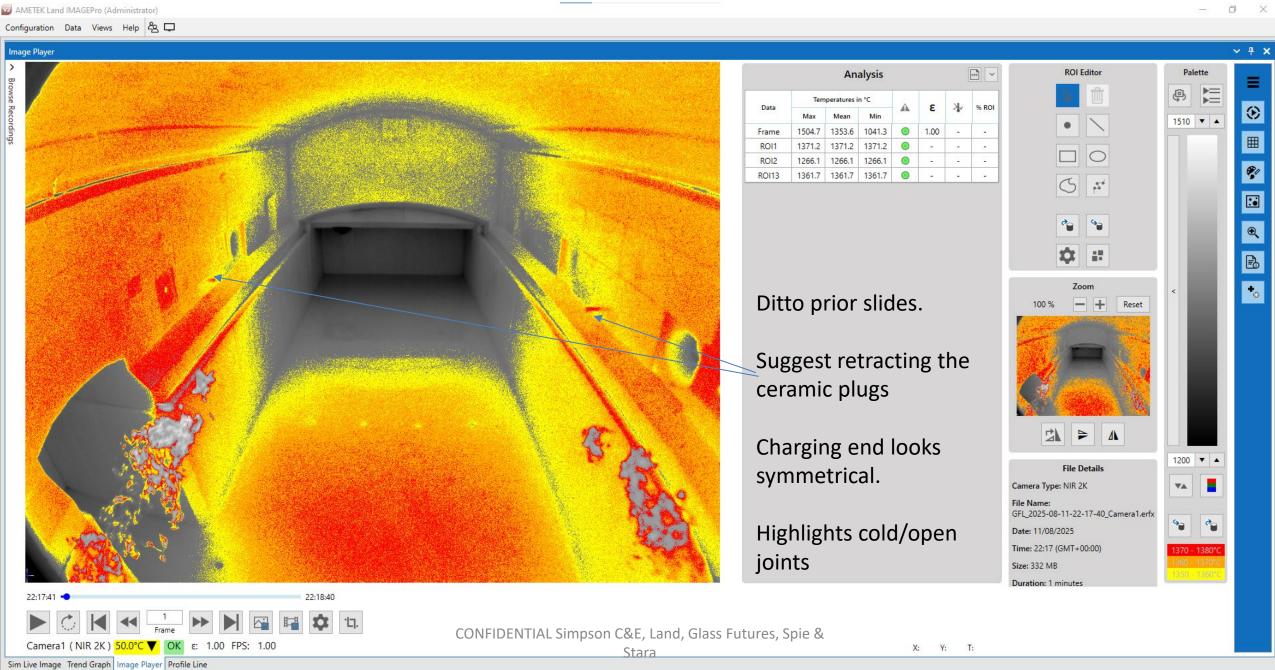
Initial Image Monday Mono/B&W often gives clearest visible image 1370-1380



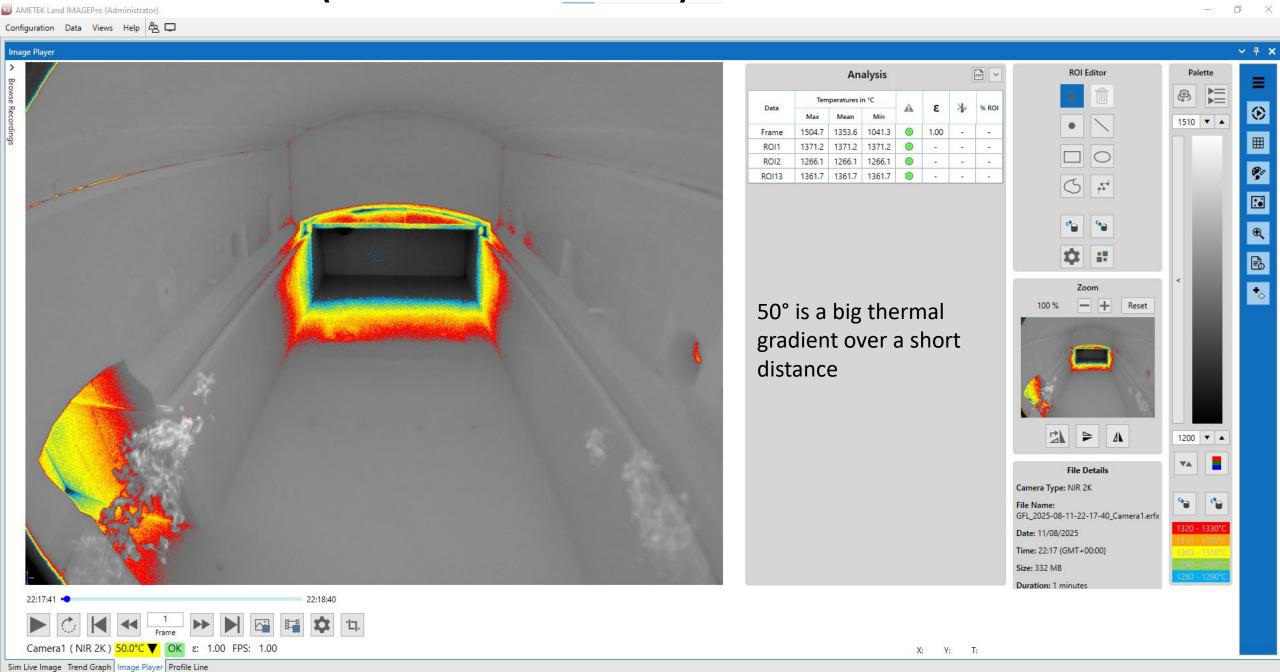
+1360-1370



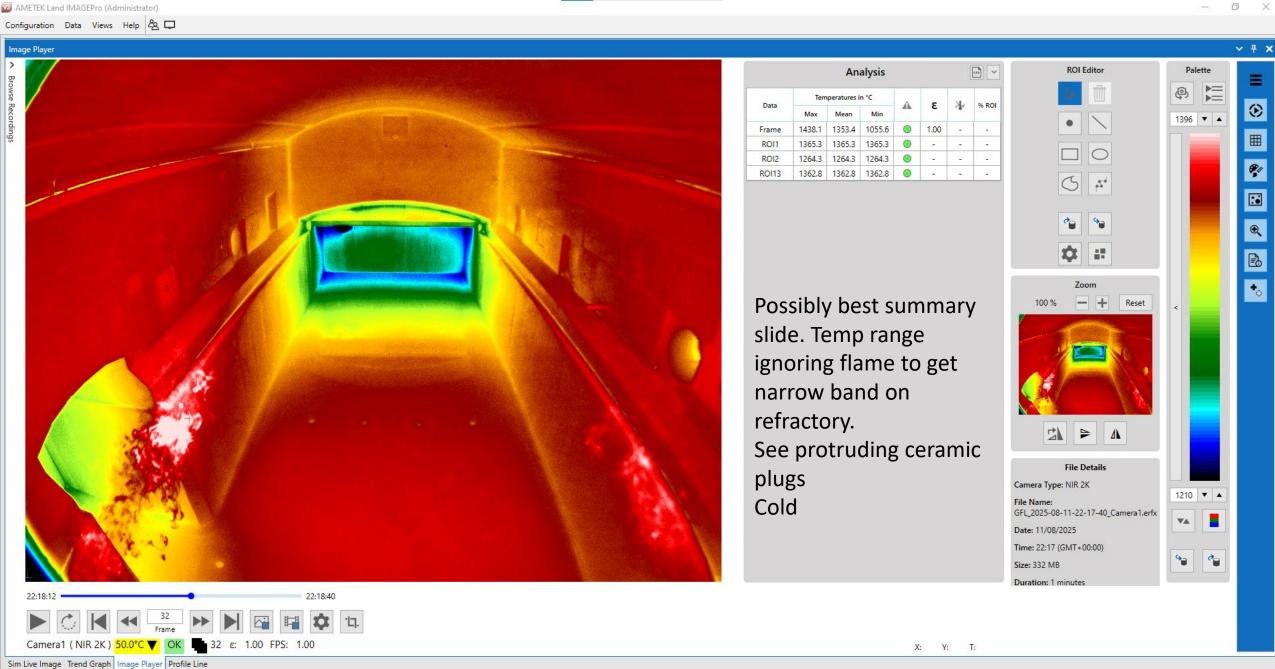
+1350-1360



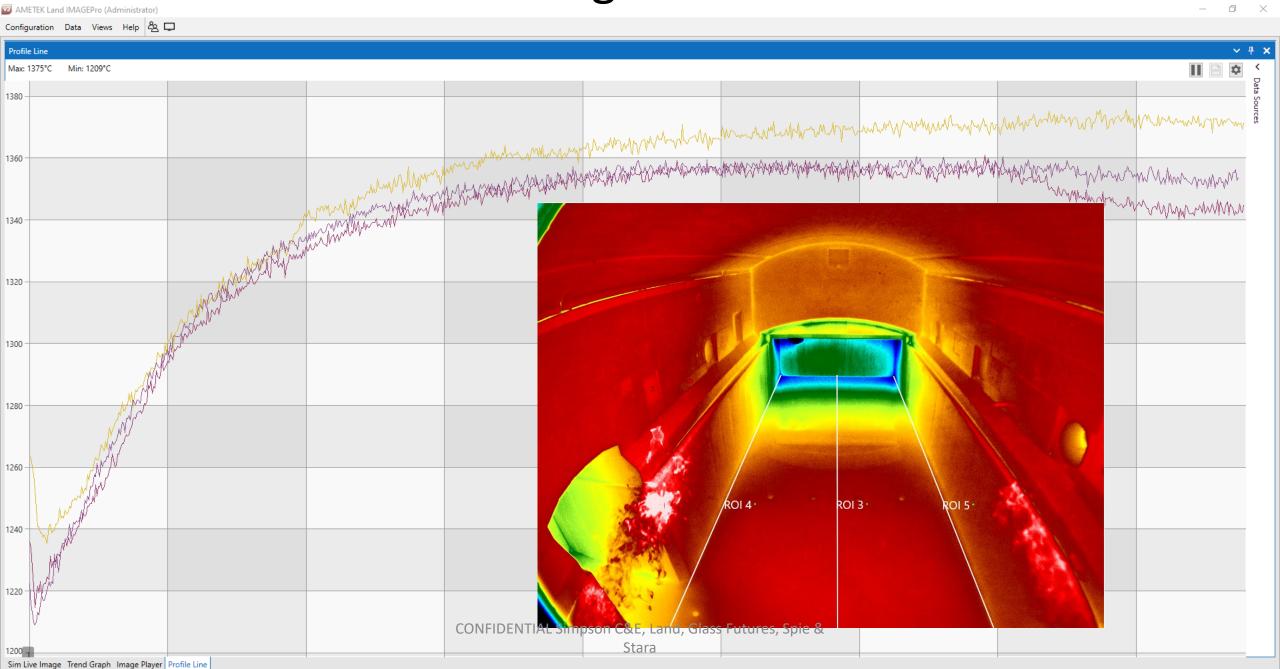
1280-1330 (5*10°isotherms)



32 frames Integrated (Average) 1210-1396=186(62*3)



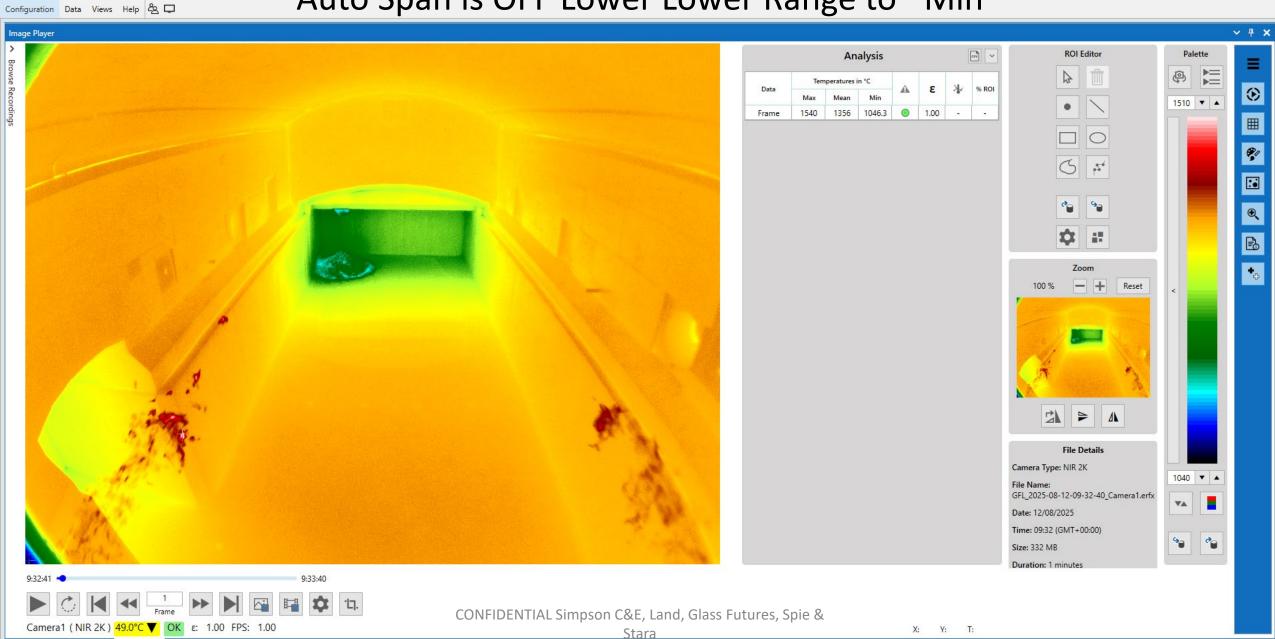
Adding side wall



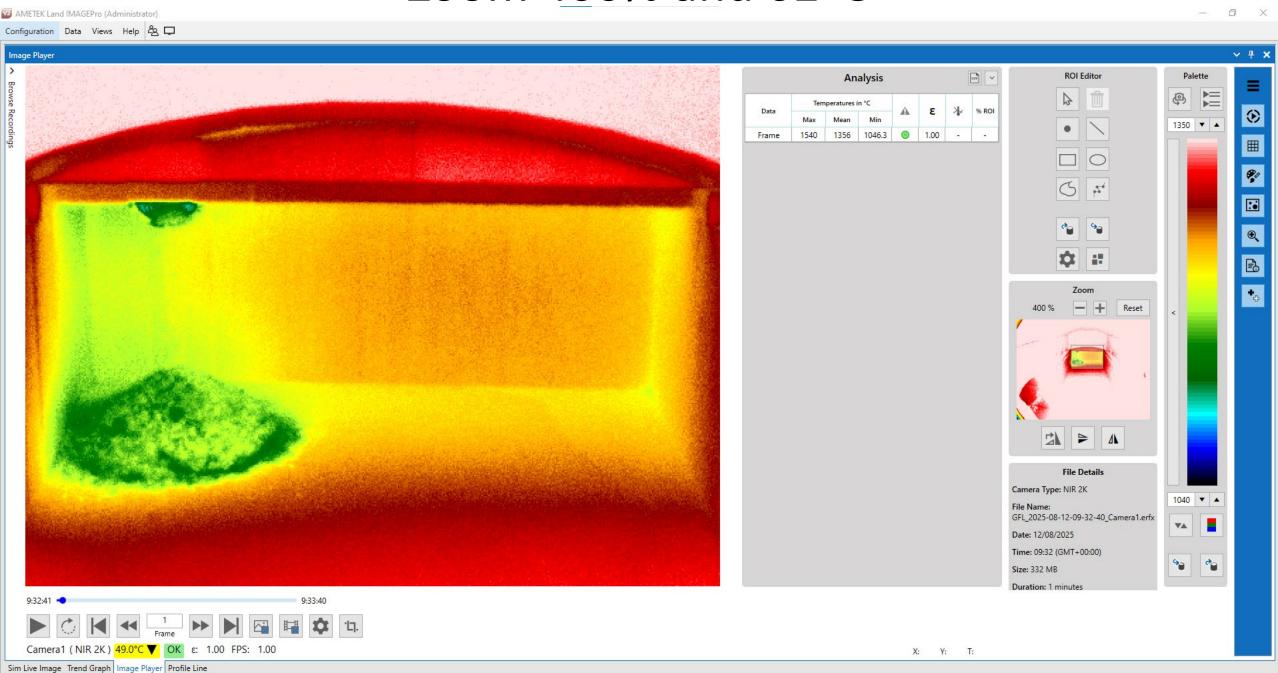
Tuesday Morning Fill in Progress 1st Image Auto Span is OFF Lower Lower Range to ~Min

AMETEK Land IMAGEPro (Administrator)

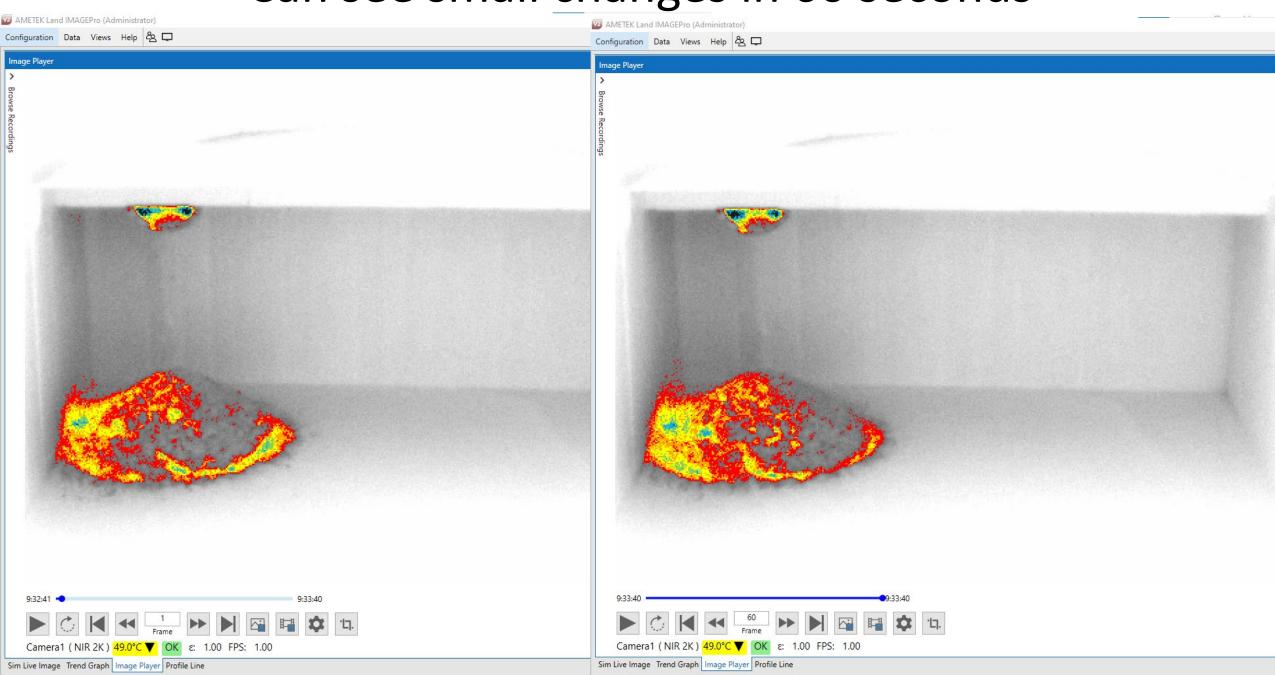
Sim Live Image Trend Graph Image Player Profile Line



Zoom 400% and 62*5



Can see small changes in 60 seconds



Observations/Lessons Learned for Main firing & Fill

- Simplifies process having one piece of software for all instruments and all temperatures
- Due to extended hot hold the MWIR camera was removed for another site trial
- The MWIR has a replaceable lens and so may be an option in other sites for the fill
- The electrodes are now colder than the surrounding area.
- The two oxy burners are in the field of view of the NIR B 2k
- Per LWIR and MWIR it is good practice to avoid the auto temperature range but define narrower range below peak.
- Where practical use a 32fps integrator to get an average and better-defined isotherm
- The NIR B has been used on more than 10 occasions to support the furnace fill anecdotal
 feedback is that it saved a day on the glass to glass previously
- Write abstract for conferences after you have the data



Summary and Conclusions



- First published report from the Glass Futures 30MTPD Glass Furnace
- One Image Pro software package and 3 Infra-Red [IR] instruments were successfully used to support the Glass Futures Furnace heat-up
 - LWIR (Long Wave) 0-500°C and 100-1000°
 - MWIR (Medium Wave) 300 to 1200 °C (used)
 - NIR (Near) 2K 1000 1800 °C (used)
- Spie Thermocouples were used and will still have to be used! It's an enhancement not alternative!!
 - The cameras confirmed the impact of thermocouples physically moving
 - "The camera makes it dramatically obvious..." Spie Excelsius
- With Land commissioning support a new NIR B can be installed for the fill but requires a further 2nd visit
- For existing NIR B users there is the opportunity to exchange an MWIR for the cool-down and heat-up/fill on a cold repair and/or rebuild.
- The LWIR is limited to the peep-hole v CCTV location but has shown information not "seen" previously
- Ideally LWIR is used for heat-up when purchased for regenerator Optimisation and glass leak detection
- Difficult to quantify benefit since ever furnace and heat-up is slightly different. "Are you glad you had it installed?" OR "Wish you had it installed??" Bigger the furnace capacity and order book the faster the payback!



https://www.glass-futures.org/

https://www.ametek-land.com/

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https://www.spie-excelsius.com/



