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## **KAWNEER ANNOUNCES STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH FORSTER PROFILE SYSTEMS**

### ***Agreement Expands Kawneer's Product Offering Through Exclusive Distribution of Forster Steel and Stainless Steel Framing Systems***

**NORCROSS, GA** – Kawneer Company, Inc., the leading manufacturer of architectural aluminum products and systems for commercial construction, today announced a strategic partnership with Forster Profile Systems, a leading manufacturer of steel and stainless steel framing systems for fire-rated and non-rated applications. Through this exclusive partnership agreement, Kawneer will distribute Forster's framing systems through its customer network. By uniting two world-class leaders, this alliance leverages the strength of the Kawneer brand and enables the company to provide total glazing solutions in North America.

As an inspired innovator, Kawneer is widely recognized for its ability to provide the market with a wide range of high-performance architectural aluminum building products and systems for commercial construction. Through combining its current range of world-class products and systems with the quality and functionality of Forster's steel and stainless steel framing systems, the company is positioned to be the market's single source for virtually all glazing solutions. Kawneer is the first supplier in North America to offer a complete range of both aluminum and steel glazing solutions.

"Providing customers with resources to help them grow their businesses is a priority for the company and is especially important in today's volatile economy," said Bob Leyland, Vice President, Commercial Operations for Kawneer North America. "This new partnership offers our customers a tremendous opportunity to expand their businesses. As we face the future head-on, we look forward to the possibilities that this alliance with Forster will bring."

Kawneer's Steel Framing Systems from Forster provide Kawneer and its customers access to the most comprehensive interior and exterior steel and stainless steel framing systems for both fire-rated and non-rated applications. The increased structural value of steel enables architects to access monumental projects beyond the capability of aluminum.

For fire-rated applications, available systems include: **Forster presto** entrances and framing systems; **Forster fuego light** entrances and framing systems; and **Forster thermfix vario** steel curtain wall systems. Options for non fire-rated applications include: **Forster unico** steel thermally insulated entrances and framing systems; and **Forster unico** steel thermally insulated windows. All steel frames will be fabricated and shipped knocked-down. On fire-rated applications, a complete package of fabricated frames and glass will be provided.

"Kawneer has a long history of success and has been able to distinguish itself in the market by leading the way with forward-thinking products and systems," said Dr. Edgar Oehler, Chairman of the Board of Directors and CEO of AFG Arbonia-Forster-Holding AG. "Partnering with Kawneer allows Forster Profile Systems to unite with a top company and bring our products to a different market. We look forward to this alliance with Kawneer and to the future of the industry."

For more information on this new partnership, as well as Kawneer's extensive range of products, please visit [www.kawneer.com](http://www.kawneer.com).

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**About Kawneer**

With more than 100 years of innovation and experience, Kawneer North America is headquartered in Norcross, GA, and is the leading manufacturer of architectural aluminum products and systems for the commercial construction industry. Kawneer is part of Alcoa's global Building and Construction Systems (BCS) business unit. Alcoa BCS manufactures and markets architectural systems and products in North America, Europe, Asia and the Middle East. Alcoa is the world's leading producer and manager of primary aluminum, and alumina facilities, and is active in all major aspects of the industry. For more information on Kawneer or its products, please visit [www.kawneer.com](http://www.kawneer.com).

**About Forster Profile Systems**

Forster Profile Systems is a leading manufacturer of profile systems in steel and stainless steel for windows, doors and exterior walls. Steel and stainless steel as primary materials provide both the filigreed appearance appreciated in glass buildings and the robust strength needed for safety applications. Forster develops and produces profile systems for a variety of applications, including thermal doors and windows, exterior walls, fire and smoke barriers, safety doors and windows (to protect against break-ins, bullets and explosives). For more information, visit [www.forster-profile.ch](http://www.forster-profile.ch).