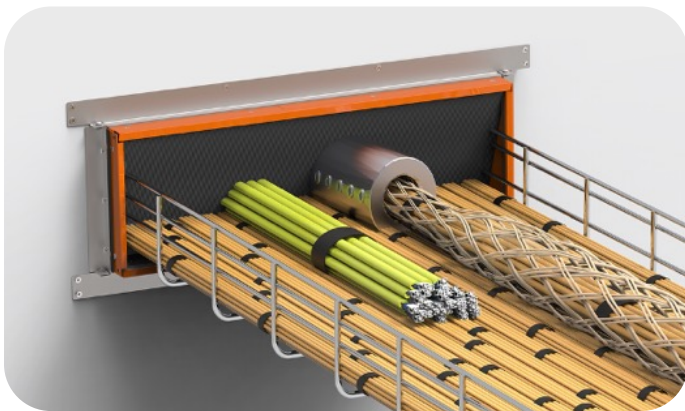


THE BURN

Summer 2026 Wrap Up

STI Launches EZ Path® ULTRA Fire-Rated Pathway for Demanding High-Density Cable Applications

STI Product Management



Specified Technologies Inc. (STI) is raising the bar for high-capacity cable management with the launch of the brand-new EZ Path® ULTRA Fire-Rated Pathway. Engineered to meet the growing demands of today's data centers and telecommunications infrastructure, ULTRA provides a fire-rated solution for large volumes of data, communications, and power cabling, including high-fill cable tray-supported systems that exceed the capacity of conventional pathway solutions.

ULTRA is specifically designed for cable-dense environments, supporting high-fill cable tray systems, main distribution pathways, and backbone routing in data center and telecommunications infrastructure. The fire-rated pathway device promotes efficient, repeatable initial installation in these high-capacity conditions, and ample entryway headroom accommodates oversized pulling heads or pre-connectorized fiber optic cables for the lifecycle of the device.

The EZ Path® ULTRA accommodates continuous and discontinuous cable tray systems. Appropriately sized devices accommodate 12", 18", and 24" wide cable trays, up to 6" tall, ensuring firestopping performance for the full capacity of the cable tray.

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 EZ Path® ULTRA Fire-Rated Pathway
- 2 The Spirit of Innovation
- 3 Digital Tool Updates
- 4 Passive Fire Protection Symposium
- 6 Spotlight on UL Systems
- 8 Communicating Field Conditions
- 10 Head-of-Wall Firestopping
- 11 Product Field Shots
- 12 Upcoming Trade Shows
- 12 Meet the Team: Sharon Englehart

"We wanted to support the next generation of digital infrastructure with a modern solution purpose-built for cable-dense environments," says Product Manager Justin Mentuck. "By streamlining installation and simplifying ongoing pathway management, this product helps keep projects on schedule and minimizes downtime in mission-critical facilities."

[Documentation for the new EZ Path® ULTRA Fire-Rated Pathway is available here.](#)

[Learn about EZ Path® in IMP assemblies here.](#)

EZ Path®
ULTRA

The Spirit of Innovation



James P. Stahl, CFPS, CDT

Sr. VP Engineering, Strategy & Innovation

STI has enjoyed a remarkably innovative period over the past few years.

We've introduced products like [EZ Path® Series 84+](#), factory-built firestop collars for 16" and 18" plastic pipe ([SpecSeal®-EXC Collars](#)), a larger [EZ Path® Cable Tray Retrofit Device](#) for cable trays up to 24" wide, and the new [EZ Path® ULTRA](#) Series devices for 12", 18", and 24" cable tray applications. When you stop and think about it, some of these solutions would have been nearly unimaginable 20 or 30 years ago.

The largest factory-built collars in the industry were 6". A field-built collar might get you to 10" if you were lucky. I can still remember the original EZ Path® introduced in 2002. It was a simple 3" x 3" device designed to solve a very real problem. Could I have envisioned a day when we'd be building pathway devices capable of handling a 24" x 6" cable tray? Not a chance. But that's how innovation works. Rarely does it begin with a product idea. More often, it begins with a problem.

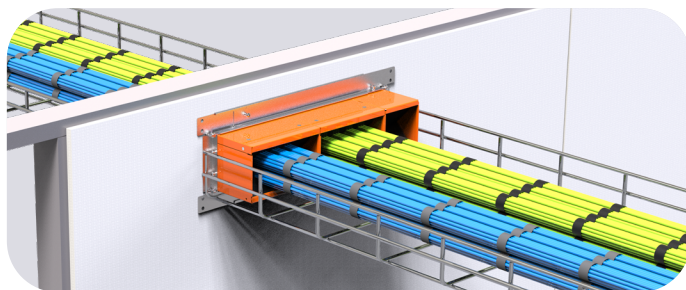
A contractor encounters a challenge in the field. A designer runs into a detail that doesn't fit conventional thinking. An installer develops a workaround. A distributor notices a recurring frustration. Someone asks a question that nobody has asked before. Then the conversation starts.

At STI, innovation is a team sport. The field provides the challenges. Customers provide the feedback. Our sales teams bring us opportunities. Our engineering and product development teams transform those insights into practical, real-world solutions. The best products we've introduced over the years weren't the result of someone sitting in a conference room trying to invent something new. They were the result of listening carefully to the people doing the work and then applying engineering expertise to solve a real-world problem. That's user-driven design.

The best innovations are often hiding in plain sight. They're buried in the punch list, discovered during installation, or uncovered when a project team asks, "There has to be a better way." We agree. That's the spirit of innovation. Not innovation for its own sake. Not innovation because it's fashionable. Innovation driven by real-world challenges and real-world users.

And if history has taught us anything, the next great STI innovation is probably sitting on a jobsite somewhere right now, disguised as a problem waiting to be solved. Since we're proud to call New Jersey home, another New Jersey innovator said it best:

"There's a way to do it better. Find it." - Thomas A. Edison



Dialing in The Virtual Experience



Justin Pine

Senior Manager, Software & Services

Being truly innovative means you are never satisfied with the way things are and are always looking forward to how things can improve. Whether that is a new app, a new feature, or even an improved user experience, being innovative at its core is about making users' lives easier. With that in mind, the STI Digital Team has spent the summer refining the experience across our applications and sanding off the rough edges.

Firestop Locator (FSL), our implementation and fire life safety tracking tool, was updated based on your feedback. Notable new features in this release are our Copy and Pair item functions. The Copy item tool lets you duplicate an existing item on your project, reducing data entry for reoccurring conditions. The Pair item tool links two placed items together, this tool has been commonly requested to virtually connect the two sides of a wall penetration that are often installed on different days due to access and scheduling.

Firestop Clash Management (FCM), our firestop design plugin for Autodesk® Revit®, has also seen a lot of attention this summer as the team prepares for our next major release. This FCM 2.0 release, planned for fall 2026, will incorporate a plethora of performance improvements, improved handling of large/complex linked model environments, new manual firestop placement functionality, as well as a brand-new Navigation Menu that removes redundancy and better communicates what each function of FCM does and where to learn more about it.

We are also refreshing our Revit Objects over the coming months focusing on creating objects for our newest product launches. We are also working on updating some objects for our existing product lines, including the EZ Path® 44+ line and the EZ Path® NEZ line. Most of these objects will be for newer product releases with some that are for as of yet not released new firestop solutions. A handful of these new objects will be replacements for existing product objects that have seen significant additions to their offering.

On the website front, we continue to update our Product Pages to include more technical information. In addition, the [Digital Knowledge Base](#) and [Case Study Library](#) now features a new theme that will improve usability and will enable a more consistent experience across the platforms.

Finally, and perhaps most excitedly, a new EZ Path Configurator tool will be launched Q4! This new tool walks users through the complex cabling conditions on their projects and recommends the most appropriate configuration of EZ Path. Configuration output will include individual product SKUs and counts of devices needed to achieve the proper installation.

To learn more about these updates as they become available, make sure to keep an eye on the [STI NewsStop](#) as well as all our [social media](#).



STI Brings Passive Fire Protection Symposium to NC State University



John Zalepka

Director of Training & Industry Engagements



A full-day educational event will bring together manufacturers, inspectors, code officials and design professionals for a unique look at passive fire protection from the rated assembly through final inspection.

Specified Technologies Inc. (STI) is bringing the passive fire protection industry together on November 10, 2026, at the McKimmon Center at NC State University in Raleigh, North Carolina, for the Passive Fire Protection Symposium: From Design and Installation to Inspection.

The in-person event is designed for code officials, fire marshals, inspectors, architects, engineers, contractors, specifiers and other building and life-safety professionals who want a better understanding of how the different components of passive fire protection work together.

Rather than focusing on a single product or system, the symposium takes a broader approach. Attendees will follow fire-resistance-rated construction from the assembly itself through joints, penetrations and mechanical systems and ultimately to the special inspection process used to verify that the finished installation meets applicable requirements.

Multiple Perspectives, One Passive Fire Protection Conversation

STI will be joined by industry experts from Alkegen, National Gypsum and Passive Fire Engineering, providing attendees with perspectives from several different areas of passive fire protection. The day begins with **Understanding the UL Fire Resistance Directory**, helping attendees better understand how tested fire-resistance-rated assemblies are selected and interpreted. The opening session will be followed by **Firestop Fundamentals**, focusing on maintaining the integrity of rated construction when penetrations and joints are introduced into those assemblies.

The conversation then moves into mechanical systems with a session on **Fire Resistance Rated Commercial Duct Systems Utilizing Flexible Wrap Enclosures**, followed after lunch by **An Inspector's Point of View: IBC Section 1705 – Fire-Resistant Penetrations and Joints**. That session will examine passive fire protection from the perspective of an independent third-party inspector, including common deficiencies and challenges encountered in the field. The educational portion of the day concludes with **Ask the Passive Fire Protection Experts**, an interactive panel discussion bringing the day's presenters together to address questions, field conditions, code-compliance challenges and the coordination required among designers, manufacturers, contractors, inspectors and Authorities Having Jurisdiction.

Five Hours of Continuing Education

The complete symposium has been approved by ICC for five hours of continuing education (ICC Course #53358). AIA LU/HSW continuing education credit will also be available for qualifying sessions. Beyond earning credits, the goal is to create an environment where attendees can learn from people representing different parts of the construction and inspection process and have conversations that don't always happen when each discipline attends separate training.

STI Brings Passive Fire Protection Symposium to NC State University

(continued)

"Passive fire protection doesn't belong to any one trade or discipline," said John Zalepka, STI Director of Training & Industry Engagements. "The rated assembly, penetrations, joints, mechanical systems and inspections all have to work together. We wanted to create an event where the people responsible for those different pieces could be in the same room, learning from one another and talking about what actually happens in the field."

An Exceptional Value for the Industry

STI and the participating organizations have intentionally kept **registration at just \$25** per attendee to make the program accessible to the code enforcement, design and construction communities. Registration includes the full five-hour educational program, up to five continuing education credits, lunch, a symposium swag bag, networking opportunities, giveaways and door prizes.

Just as importantly, the symposium provides attendees an opportunity to connect directly with industry subject-matter experts and peers from throughout North Carolina and the surrounding region. Attendance is currently limited to 100 participants, and a waitlist will be established once capacity is reached.

The logo for ALKEGEN features the word "ALKEGEN" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. A green curved line arches over the letters "A", "L", and "K".The logo for National Gypsum features the word "National" in a bold, italicized, black serif font, followed by a red and yellow flag icon. Below it, the word "Gypsum" is in a bold, italicized, black serif font, followed by a registered trademark symbol.The logo for PFE PASSIVE FIRE ENGINEERING features a red square icon with a white border, followed by the letters "PFE" in a large, bold, black serif font. To the right, the words "PASSIVE FIRE" and "ENGINEERING" are stacked in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

Passive Fire Protection Symposium

November 10, 2026

McKimmon Center, NC State University

Raleigh, North Carolina

Registration: 8:30 AM | Program: 9:00 AM–3:00 PM

[Click here to register!](#)

Spotlight on UL Systems



David Vail

P.E., Project Manager & Codes/Standards

New Firestop Device for Cable Trays!

STI is excited to offer a factory-manufactured solution for firestopping applications where high-capacity cable trays with up to a 100% visual fill penetrate concrete, gypsum or composite wall assemblies. An easy solution for large volumes of cable and cable tray-supported systems is the use of EZ Path® ULTRA Fire-Rated Pathways. The new devices accommodate cable tray widths of up to 24 in. and cable fill capacity can range from 0 to 100 percent for tray heights of up to 6 in. The EZ Path® ULTRA is suitable for continuous cable trays, which pass through the opening without interruption, and for applications where trays terminate on one or both sides of the wall. The relevant systems for gypsum, concrete and composite walls respectively are [W-L-4116](#), [W-J-4117](#) and [W-N-4002](#).



EZ Path® ULTRA During Fire Endurance Testing (W-L-4116)

System No. W-L-4116

ANSI/UL 1479 (ASTM E814)	CANULC B115
F Ratings - 1 or 2 Hr (See Item 1)	F Ratings - 1 or 2 Hr (See Item 1)
FF Ratings - 3/4 or 1 Hr (See Item 4)	FF Ratings - 3/4 or 1 Hr (See Item 4)
FT Ratings - 1 or 2 Hr (See Item 1)	FT Ratings - 1 or 2 Hr (See Item 1)
ETH Ratings - 3/4 or 1 Hr (See Item 4)	ETH Ratings - 3/4 or 1 Hr (See Item 4)

1. Wall Assembly - The 1 or 2 hr fire rated gypsum board/initial wall assembly shall be constructed of the materials and in the manner specified in the individual UL20, V200, Q400, V400 or W400 Series Wall and Partition Designs in the UL Fire Resistance Directory and shall include the following construction features:

A. Studs - Wall framing may consist of either wood studs or steel channel studs. Wood studs to consist of nominal 2 by 4 in. (51 by 102 mm) lumber spaced 16 in. (405 mm) OC. Steel studs to be min 3-1/2 in. (89 mm) wide and spaced max 24 in. (610 mm) OC. Additional framing members shall be used to completely frame around the opening.

B. Gypsum Board - Thickness, type, number of layers, fastener type and sheet orientation shall be as specified in the individual Design in the UL Fire Resistance Directory. If through penetrators are installed in wood stud/gypsum board assemblies, max area of opening is 158 sq in. (1020cm²) with max dimension of 14 1/2 in. (368 mm). The opening in the wall to be a maximum of 1 1/4 in. (31 mm) larger than the width or height dimensions of the firestop device(s).

The hourly F and FF Ratings of the firestop system are equal to the hourly fire rating of the wall assembly in which it is installed.

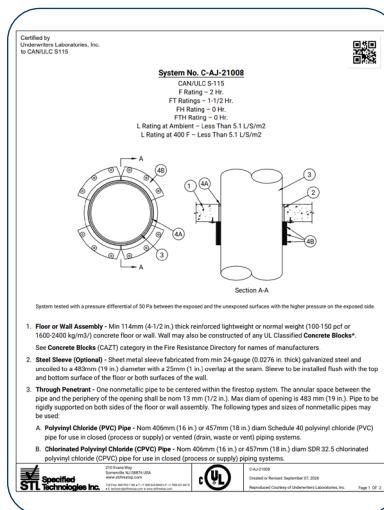
Specified Technologies Inc.

Spotlight on UL Systems

(continued)

EXC Firestop Collar for Canada!

Regular readers of the Burn may recall the recent launch of our new SpecSeal® EXC Firestop Collar. We are pleased to now feature coverage with this collar for the Canadian market through [C-AJ-21008](#), which was tested with a 50 Pa pressure differential as required by many Canadian building codes for nonmetallic penetrants. The EXC Firestop Collar is specially designed for firestopping 16 and 18 in. diameter nonmetallic penetrants and this new listing covers PVC and CPVC pipes. SpecSeal® Series SSS, LCI or SIL400 Sealant is installed as the smoke seal. The system provides a 2 Hr F Rating in concrete floor and wall assemblies and includes L Ratings with leakage rates of less than 5.1 L/s/m² at both ambient and 400°F.



EXC Firestop Collar During Fire Endurance Testing (C-AJ-21008)

Communicating Field Conditions: Small Details That Make a Big Difference in Engineering Judgments



Christopher DeMarco, CFPS

Director of Engineering Services



Engineering Judgments are often requested because real-world construction doesn't fit neatly within the boundaries of a tested and listed system. Existing conditions, access limitations, trade coordination challenges, and project constraints all create situations that require engineering evaluation.

When submitting an EJ request, one of the most helpful things a contractor can do is clearly describe not only the condition itself, but also the constraints surrounding it. Often, those constraints are what drive the engineering solution.

Start with the Condition You Have, Not the Condition You Want

One of the first questions an engineer should ask is whether the condition already exists or is still being planned. That distinction matters. If a penetration is already installed, the engineer knows the opening size, penetrant arrangement, and surrounding construction may not be changeable. The evaluation must work within those limitations.

If the installation has not yet occurred, there may be opportunities to modify dimensions, spacing, or system configuration to better align with tested and listed systems. A simple statement such as "Existing condition. Opening dimensions cannot be modified." or "Planned installation. Dimensions may be adjusted as necessary." provides valuable context before the review even begins.

Define the Limits

Many tested systems include a range of acceptable conditions. Describing a condition as "per system" can sometimes leave room for interpretation. Instead, provide the actual dimensions that need to be accommodated. For example, rather than stating "Annular space per system," consider: "Annular space ranges from 0" to 1-1/4".

The same principle applies to multiple penetrants. Rather than "Pipes grouped together," consider: "Pipe separation ranges from 1/2" to 2". The engineer can only evaluate the dimensions that are known. Defining the minimum and maximum conditions that exist between the penetrants and opening, and between penetrants when multiple penetrants are present, helps ensure the evaluation addresses the full range of conditions that may exist in the field.

For example, rather than stating "Penetrants per system," consider: "Max 4" Type M copper tube." Identifying the specific penetrant types and sizes enables the engineer to evaluate a solution based on the actual conditions present, avoiding unnecessary means and methods that may not be required for the application. In addition, some systems encompass a broad range of penetrant types and sizes, which can introduce ambiguity and increase the potential for misinterpretation.

Explain What Cannot Change

Sometimes the most important information is not what exists, but what is off-limits. Examples might include: existing sleeve must remain; opening cannot be enlarged; pipe cannot be disconnected; existing cable tray cannot be relocated; or structural modifications are not permitted. These constraints often influence the recommended solution more than the dimensions themselves.

Be Clear About Product Flexibility

Another area where additional clarity can be helpful is product preference. Sometimes a request will simply state, "Need LCI or WF Sealant." At first glance, that sounds straightforward. But there are several possible interpretations. Does the contractor need both products shown as acceptable options? Is either product acceptable? Or is the contractor looking for a recommendation? Those are very different requests.

Consider these two examples: "Please provide options using both LCI and WF Sealant." or "Either product is acceptable. Please recommend the preferred solution." The second request gives the engineer flexibility to select what they believe is the most appropriate solution for the condition being evaluated.

Communicating Field Conditions: Small Details That Make a Big Difference in Engineering Judgments

(continued)

When engineers make that decision, they are typically looking at the overall body of available evidence. A solution supported by multiple tested systems, broader application history, or a more extensive testing record may provide greater confidence than a solution supported by fewer data points. In other words, engineers generally gravitate toward the solution supported by the strongest available technical basis.

If you need multiple options for procurement, standardization, or project requirements, that's important information to communicate. If you're simply looking for the best technical recommendation, letting the engineer know that can often streamline the evaluation.

Describe Access Conditions Early

Access limitations are frequently discovered halfway through an evaluation rather than at the beginning. Details such as installation from one side of the wall only, no access above the ceiling, no access below the floor assembly, or access restricted after equipment installation can have a significant impact on the available options.

Access limitations may be inherent to the construction conditions. For example, a penetrant may be installed directly adjacent to a barrier, restricting access to portions of its perimeter. This is an important consideration when evaluating the installation of firestop products, particularly firestop collars for plastic pipe penetrations, where access to the full circumference of the penetrant may be necessary for proper installation.

Rather than simply noting "limited access," describe the actual installation conditions. The more accurately the engineer understands how the work will be performed, and any interferences presented by the existing construction, the more practical the resulting recommendation will be.

A Picture Helps, Context Helps More

Photos remain one of the most valuable tools for communicating field conditions, but the most useful photos are often accompanied by a brief explanation. A note such as "Existing condition. Pipe cannot be removed. Access available from corridor side only. A reference for scaling purposes, such as a ruler." may answer several questions that would otherwise require a follow-up conversation.

The Goal Isn't More Information, It's Better Information

Contractors and engineers ultimately have the same objective: finding a practical solution that works in the field. The most effective EJ requests clearly communicate whether the condition is existing or planned, the actual dimensions that must be accommodated, what can and cannot be modified, access limitations, and product preferences and flexibility. Those details help ensure the evaluation is focused on solving the right problem from the start.



The Evolution of Head-of-Wall Firestopping: One Platform, Multiple Joint Solutions

STI Product Management



One of the longstanding inefficiencies in wall construction is treating firestopping as a secondary operation rather than an integral part of the wall assembly itself. Traditionally, contractors construct the wall first and then return to install firestop materials, adding additional time, coordination, access equipment, inspections, and scheduling considerations to the project. As construction schedules continue to tighten, the industry has increasingly sought solutions that simplify installation while maintaining compliance.

The evolution of head-of-wall firestopping solutions reflects this shift in priorities. For years, contractors relied on field-applied firestop sealants to protect construction joints. Spray-applied solutions later improved productivity on larger projects but still required firestopping to be completed as a separate operation after wall construction. More recently, preformed firestop solutions have introduced a different approach by integrating protection directly into the wall construction process itself.

The [SpeedFlex® TTG Track Top Gasket](#) family from STI was developed around this concept. Installed directly on framing components before drywall installation, TTG incorporates firestopping into wall construction rather than treating it as a separate task performed later in the schedule.

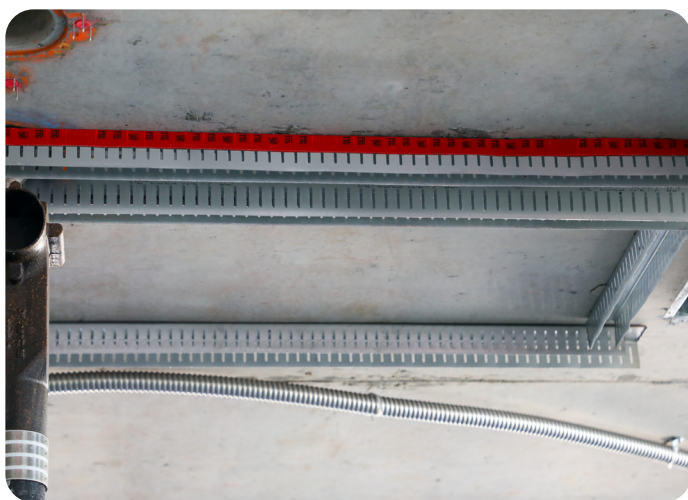
This installation method offers several practical advantages. The material can be cut to length using common tools, generates minimal waste, and eliminates many of the secondary installation steps associated with traditional firestop applications. The visible red profile also assists with inspection and verification in the field. Beyond installation efficiency, TTG is designed to support fire, smoke, and acoustical performance requirements while accommodating joint movement, helping maintain continuity throughout the construction process.

One of the most significant strengths of the TTG family is its adaptability. Available in multiple track widths and configurations, the system allows contractors to address varying wall assemblies without dramatically altering installation practices. Whether working with head-of-wall joints, bottom-of-wall joints, wall-to-wall joints, perimeter fire barrier conditions, flat slab applications, or shaft wall assemblies, crews can leverage a common installation approach across numerous conditions encountered on commercial projects.

This versatility can simplify product selection, training, and execution while helping create greater consistency across the jobsite. Rather than managing multiple installation methods and unrelated products, contractors can standardize around a family of solutions designed to address a broad range of joint conditions while maintaining familiar installation practices. These benefits are echoed by installers in the field. Discussing his experience with TTG, Bryan Motino from The Donaldson Organization noted, "We used to use caulk, but the gasket is more effective. It's faster, it's cleaner, and it's easy to install. You put it on the track, cut it to length, and you're ready to go. It definitely saves us time".

As construction methods continue to evolve, many contractors are looking for systems that can be applied consistently across a project rather than relying on a patchwork of unrelated products. A common installation methodology can help reduce training requirements, improve consistency, and simplify inspection processes. The TTG family aligns with this objective by spanning multiple joint types, wall assemblies, track widths, and deck conditions while maintaining a familiar installation experience from application to application.

These products and their related systems represent the latest step in the evolution of construction joint firestopping. By integrating protection into the wall construction process itself, these systems help streamline installation while addressing fire, smoke, and acoustical performance requirements. As contractors continue seeking solutions that reduce complexity and improve installation efficiency, integrated systems such as the TTG family are likely to play an increasingly important role across commercial construction projects.



Product Field Shots

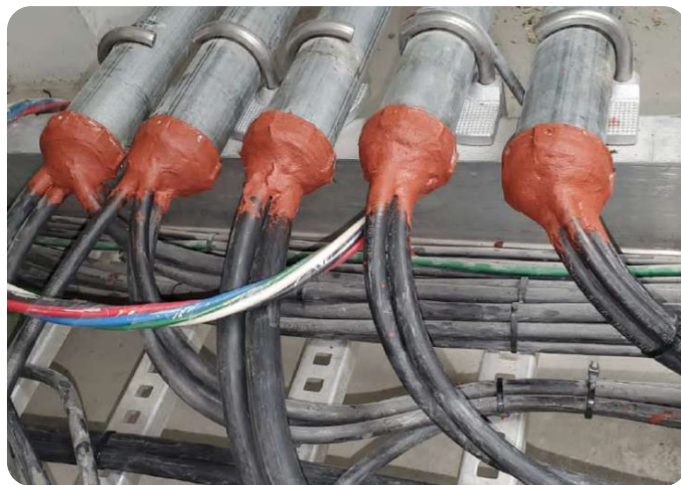


Composite Sheet Installation

Project: Combined-Cycle Power Plant

Location: Valladolid, Yucatán, México

Contractor: MGM Instalaciones



Putty Installation

Project: Combined-Cycle Power Plant

Location: Valladolid, Yucatán, México

Contractor: MGM Instalaciones



Pillow Installation

Project: CHOP New Patient Tower

Location: Philadelphia, PA

Contractor: PDM Constructors



Composite Sheet Installation

Project: CHOP New Patient Tower

Location: Philadelphia, PA

Contractor: PDM Constructors

Upcoming Trade Shows

Facades+ Denver

10/01/26, Denver, Colorado

NECA 2026

10/04/26 - 10/07/26, Las Vegas, Nevada
Booth #6021

Greenbuild International Conference

10/20/26 - 10/23/26, New York, New York
Booth #1513

Facades+ Los Angeles

11/05/26 - 11/06/26, Los Angeles, California

Meet the TEAM

Sharon Englehart

Engineering Services Coordinator



What is your role at Specified Technologies Inc. and how long have you been here?

I recently became the Engineering Services Coordinator after more than 18 years with Specified Technologies Inc. During that time, I served as an Administrative Assistant supporting the R&D and Engineering Services teams, as well as other departments across the organization. I look forward to continuing to support the Engineering Services team and contributing to STI's ongoing success.

What is one bucket list item of yours?

My number one bucket-list item is to see the New York Jets reach the Super Bowl. After 48 years as a loyal fan, seeing them make it to the "Big Game" at least once in my lifetime would be incredible—even if it sometimes feels highly unlikely!

What project have you worked on in your career that you are most proud to have been a part of?

Over the years, I have contributed to several projects at STI, but I am most proud of initiating the automation of the Warranty and LEED processes. This work streamlined the process and improved turnaround time. Collaborating with several coworkers to accomplish this reinforced the importance of organization and teamwork.

What is your favorite part about working in the firestopping industry?

Before joining STI, I had never heard of the firestopping industry. As I learned more about the industry and saw firsthand the difference proper fire protection can make, I gained a deep appreciation for the importance of our work. Having personally experienced the consequences of a fire-related incident, I understand how critical it is to keep safety at the forefront of everything we do.

What is one fun fact about yourself?

Music has always been a big part of my life, and I have attended more than one hundred concerts. I enjoy many types of music, but classic rock is my favorite genre, and Elvis and KISS are my favorite artists. KISS remains my all-time favorite band because their larger-than-life stage presence, elaborate costumes, and high-energy performances make every show an experience—not just a concert.

