Leading UK decoiler teams up with IT market leader

Since its creation in 2002, Phil Daniels has guided Eterniti Steels from a one room office in Baildon, West Yorkshire to a successful UK-wide supplier of coil, sheet, plate and profiled products. Now the company is maintaining a competitive edge with PCI's steel software.

Eterniti's head office is located on a purpose-built site in Pontefract with a modern 15 roller decoiling line, a self-contained shearing unit, a storage yard with plates up to 300mm and offices. The Scottish operation in Bellshill, Lanarkshire has 27,000ft^2 of covered warehousing along with extensive outside storage and offering both oxy-fuel and hi-def plasma profiling, in addition to an extensive stock service.

In the competitive steel stockholding sector, the development and maintenance of a competitive edge is essential to ensure success. The edge comes from offering quality products, competitively priced and combined with high levels of customer service. Eterniti Steel's success had led to improvements in plant and equipment but by 2010, the information systems were holding the company back and something had to change.

Having completed a review of the options available, a focus group started to test the market. With a clear set of objectives, they met with software suppliers specialising in steel stockholding and processing, along with suppliers of more generic applications. A shortlist was formulated and soon thereafter, a preferred supplier was identified. Detailed discussions followed with Sheffield-based PCI Systems, a specialist steel sector supplier since 1981.

Demonstrations covering key operational requirements for de-coiling, slitting, shearing and stockholding were provided, along with illustrations of reductions in costs and improvements in customer service that could be achieved. Over and above the core sales, stock management and procurement functions, improvements in transport management and certificate/document management were identified as key objectives. Successful demonstrations and negotiations concluded in contracts being signed with PCI at the end of September.

With the shared objective of building a competitive edge and improving customer service, Eterniti Steel and PCI Systems are now working together to complete the consultancy, installation and training in time to commission the installation at the beginning of 2011.

Reader Reply No.23

Parkegate launches website and forms Chinese partnership

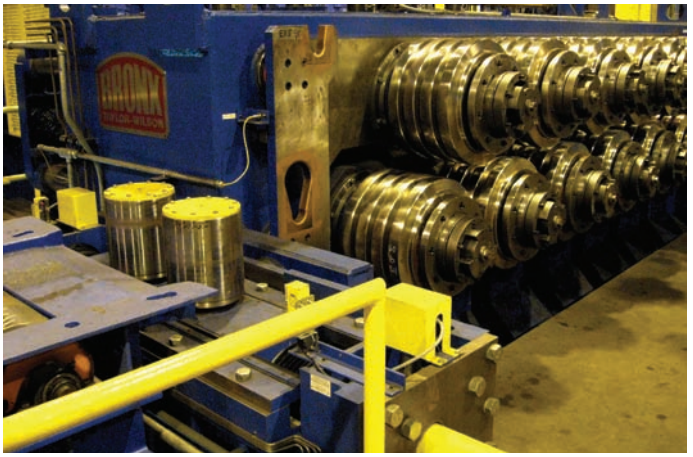
As part of its ongoing business development, Parkegate has launched a redesigned website and an updated logo, intended to offer a fresh view of Parkegate's engineering services and activities for the complete spectrum of metals.

The website (www.parkegate.co.uk) provides a source of regular news updates, along with details of the company's product range and services relating to both rolling mills and process lines.

Current news posted on the site includes the announcement of Parkegate's recently formed partnership with Nanjing-based JOCITE, a specialist group engaged in engineering projects who is assisting Parkegate in the delivery of solutions to the Chinese metals industry. The liaison office will support all aspects of projects from the sale through to site and it will also provide a local after sales service.

Reader Reply No.24

Steel Dynamics installs section straightening machines



End view of the BTW RS6S section straightening machine.

Leading USA-based supplier of special steel products, Steel Dynamics recently installed two section straightening machines from Bronx/Taylor-Wilson, for its West Virginia facility. A Series RS8S straightening machine was placed inline with the rolling mill and was designed to handle special steel products that are supplied in the as-rolled condition to the section straightening machines. Products range from 12in wide and as thick as 4.69in, with overall lengths ranging from 20ft to 270ft. With speeds infinitely variable up to 2000ft/min, this machine will easily outperform the rolling mill.

Series RS8S straightening machine.

The second machine was a Bronx/Taylor-Wilson Series RS6S straightening machine, which was placed offline and is designed to handle products ranging from 1in to 12in wide and as thick as 4.69in. Typically, the straightener handles jobs that are cut to size, with lengths not exceeding 40ft. The RS6S is equipped with speeds infinitely variable up to 400ft/min, although this speed is rarely needed in an offline machine.

A specially designed Bronx/Taylor-Wilson product manipulator was installed to rotate the sections to the proper plane for the straightening process. The purpose of the machine is for straightening rolled steel sections. In order to straighten a product, all or a proportion of its cross-section must be stressed beyond the material's yield point. In roller straightening, this stressing is applied by deflecting the section as it passes through a triangle of staggered work rolls, resulting in a permanent curvature being induced in the product. Straightening is achieved by alternately reversing and reducing this induced curvature as the product passes through subsequent triangles of work rolls.

Also included on each of the installations' section straighteners is the Bronx Compass computer system for the automatic precision setting of the straightening machine. The unit comprises a PC-based Human Machine Interface, which provides complete graphical information on the status of the machine, including digital indication of all machine adjustments. It also allows the operator to enter details about the product to be straightened, after which optimised values for the various machine settings will be recommended. Once the operator has accepted the recommended settings, all of the adjustments will be automatically repositioned to the new values. These product values can be entered as a product code for the benefit of the operator.

Both installations utilise the Bronx quick change tooling system, which allows complete tooling change from one size product to another in less than two hours.

Reader Reply No.25

Expansion at Parkegate

On the back of a recent order from Hindalco, which will see the installation of the first hot mill for canstock in India, UK-based Parkegate Engineering has expanded its engineering capability and capacity with the addition of more than 120 man years of experience in the metals industry.

Nick Saunders, Trevor Annels, Robert Hiscock and Paul Osborne have recently joined Parkegate Engineering.

Engineering specialist Parkegate has not only strengthened its engineering team with the addition of Trevor Annels (Project Engineer) and Nick Saunders (Fluids Engineer) but has also bolstered the sales team with the arrival of Robert Hiscock (Sales Manager) and Paul Osborne (Sales and Business Development Manager).

All with a long history at Siemens VAI, the recruits bring a wide range of skills to Parkegate covering mechanical and fluids design, rolling processes, sales, marketing and project management. Coupled with their experience in the sale and execution of an extensive range of projects worldwide, the recruits will enhance the capabilities of the existing Parkegate team.

Reader Reply No.40

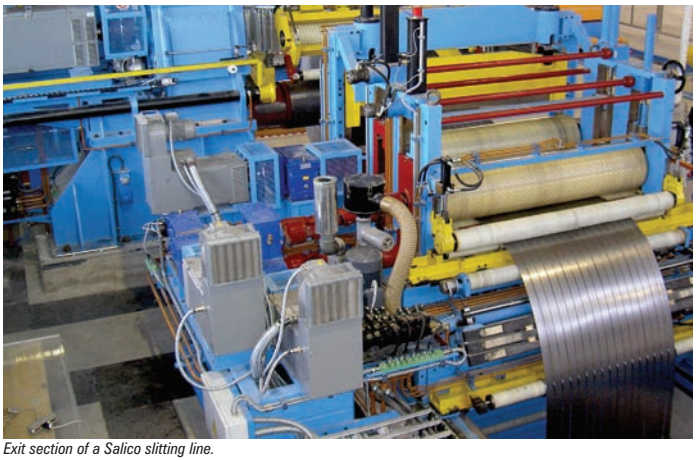
Iron ore sinter plant for India

Outotec has won an order from Steel Authority of India Ltd for the design and delivery of an iron ore sinter plant for SAIL's Bhilai steel plant in Chhattisgarh. Outotec will implement the turnkey plant project in association with Larsen & Toubro Ltd.

The sinter plant is part of SAIL's programme of expanding annual capacity of the Bhilai steel plant to seven million tonnes of crude steel. Outotec's scope of supply covers engineering, supply of proprietary and special equipment as well as technical services for a sinter plant with annual capacity of 3.7 million tonnes. Larsen & Toubro will cover the supply of local components and site construction works. The sinter plant is expected to become operational in 2012.

Reader Reply No.41

International cutting and slitting equipment orders



Exit section of a Salico slitting line.

Italy's Salico and its Spanish subsidiary Salmec report a successful 2010 in terms of business from steel service centres. Gonvarri, for example, has ordered a trapezoidal cutting line for its Argentine service centre investment. Intended to cut high quality steel for automotive external parts, the line will include a patented rotary tilting shear, a cassette leveler for high plastification and a magnetic stacker.

In Portugal, Plafesa has placed an order with Salmec for the supply of three cutting lines. This cut-to-length 2.000 * 20mm line will include an eccentric rotary shear, heavy duty levelers and magnetic stacker, together with two slitting lines.

Brazilian company Tuper, one of the country's largest pipe and automotive parts manufacturers, has ordered two advanced cutting lines. A cut-to-length 2.000 * 25mm line will feature as key components two heavy duty levelers for high plastification, a flying shear and an advanced stacker with lift-type arms to minimise dust and noise generation. Separately, a slitting 2.000 * 15 mm line will include Salico's bridle roll tension device for thick gauge strip, slitter head with completely automatic tooling exchange and an eccentric scrap chopper that allows knives to be changed within three minutes, without tooling. The line will be designed for later installation of a tooling loading robot with cleaning station, engineered and manufactured in-house.

Reader Reply No.42

Rolling out a Russian deal

One of Sheffield Forgemasters' large back-up rolls.

Sheffield Forgemasters has secured a substantial contract with Russian steelmaker MMK, valued at more than £3 million. The deal involves the supply of 116 work rolls weighing five tonnes each and two back up rolls weighing 40 tonnes each. MMK is located in Magnitogorsk, a industrial and mining city located by the Ural River.

The rolls will be used at MMK's latest wide strip cold rolling mill to roll steel sheets for domestic use including car manufacture and white goods such as fridges and washing machines.

Creating the rolls requires specialist skills at Forgemasters, with processes ranging from forging each ingot to heat treatment, which takes the rolls from +940°C to –40°C and creates highly specific hardness properties. They are machine finished to within 0.05mm on computer-controlled machine tools.

Reader Reply No.43

In brief . . .

Ternium Planta Guerrero in Monterrey, Mexico has awarded a contract to LAP Laser LLC for the supply of two Slab Check complex measurement systems for its thin slab casters. These systems will utilise a number of scanning laser profile sensors to calculate centerline thickness, thickness profile and width and will provide feedback to Ternium's Level II for process optimisation purposes. The sensors will be housed in protective structures (sensor frames) with air cooling and purging.
These sensor frames will be positioned at the casters, immediately after the transition of material flow from vertical to horizontal. Extensive data collection, display and analysis capabilities will allow Ternium personnel to obtain optimum performance and product quality at the casters. Installation and commissioning is scheduled for the first quarter of 2011.

Reader Reply No.44

The RHI Supervisory Board has named Henning E Jensen as 'Sprecher des Vorstandes', in addition to his existing role as CFO of RHI AG. This follows the recent departure from the company of Thomas Fahnemann, CEO for personal reasons. In addition to Mr Jensen, the Management Board comprises Giorgio Cappelli (COO, Steel Division) and Manfred Hödl (COO, Industrial Division).

Reader Reply No.45

PSI has been commissioned by Vallourec to deliver PSImetals as the Manufacturing Execution System (MES) for a small diameter rolling mill at Youngstown in Ohio, USA. Vallourec is already successfully using PSImetals at plants in Europe and South America. At the Youngstown plant, Vallourec is building a small diameter rolling mill to support the anticipated increase in demand for seamless tubes that is associated with the expansion of the natural gas market in the USA.
PSImetals 5 incorporates the independent, complementary solutions of AIS, PSI and 4Production into one integrated offering, creating a product line that provides an end-to-end solution for the complete supply chain. Metals-specific products support all processes from planning to production execution, in full consideration of the complexity of metals production. PSImetals 5 enables manufacturers of steel and non-ferrous metals to ensure their competitive edge by helping them reach the goal of full, on-time, quality certified delivery of their customer orders, while respecting inventory, productivity and cost performance targets.

Reader Reply No. 46