IMPROVED QUALITY
FOR SHEET AND STRIP

Part 1: modernization of the continuous tension leveller

During the modernization of the continuous tension leveller, the focus was on improvements in quality, the environmental footprint and work safety.

Quality. New nozzle geometry and possibilities for the flexible setting of process parameters within narrow limits provide the perfect cleaning of the coil surface. In addition, modern automation and process bath separation are both employed.

Environment. Here, the cleaning agent dosage has been sharply restricted and wastewater volumes reduced markedly. A new treatment plant will mean that virtually wastewater-free operation is imminent. An accredited testing laboratory carries out ongoing, technical process controls in an environmental regard.

Work safety. An extensive range of devices, which goes beyond the latest work safety standards have been installed (protective fencing and gates, fall protection devices, light barriers).
Increased customer advantages

At the facilities of our customers, the improved, uniform degreasing of strip surfaces results in cleaner processing procedures in combination with higher quality and lower costs. For example, a mild alkaline treatment means that the natural oxide skin of the aluminium is retained and therefore transport protecting oil is no longer required, thus removing the need for cost-intensive degreasing by the customer prior to hot forming. Another advantage of optimum cleaning is provided by the fact that especially in the case of brazed clad strip, a very low residual carbon content is attained, which ensures excellent wetting with the flow agent and a smooth brazing process. Furthermore, perfect cleaning is also an important prerequisite for passivation, which will be introduced in Ranshofen during this autumn and provides a perfect ground for durable bonding. Last, but not least, the tension-leveller can apply dry lubricants within defined limits and this facilitates the pressing of complex components without the need to oil the pressing tools.

Long-term operational experience for plant optimization

The CIP system installed at the plant ensures that the long-term experience of operating personnel is included in optimum plant design with regard to productivity, quality and work safety. Due to this approach and interplay with product technologies, a standard plant was enlarged to form multifunctional capacity for the production of high-value special products.