

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the first in a series of IRM group newsletters!

Our purpose is to inform you about our success with overviews of recent projects and developments. In this issue, we review a recent project that required a fast delivery and installation of 2 thickness gauges for Thyssen Krupp Acciai Speciali Terni.

For any information about our company and products, don't hesitate to send us an e-mail at info@irmgroup.info or visit our web site www.irmgroup.info

I hope you enjoy the article.

Yours faithfully,

Jean-Marc Philippet
Managing Director

IRM group in some words

IRM group specializes in the Research, Design, Manufacture and Service of industrial measurement systems, combining extensive industry experience and the latest technology. IRM group products can be used in all processing steps of steel, aluminum or other non-ferrous metals to improve production and product quality. Since its origin, IRM group has installed over 1600 measurement systems in more than 40 countries worldwide, evenly distributed throughout Europe, America or Asia. To serve its customers locally, IRM group has an efficient global network of agents and subsidiary companies.

New thickness gauges at TKAST

In September 2002, IRM group successfully commissioned two new thickness gauges at Thyssen Krupp Acciai Speciali Terni (TKAST), a member of the global Thyssen Krupp Stainless company. Located in Italy, TKAST is one of the world leader in stainless steel production. TKAST, who has used IRM group equipment for several years, needed the new thickness gauges as quickly as possible after a mill fire.

An urgent need

In 2002, a severe fire extensively damaged one of TKAST Sendzimir mills stopping production for an extended period. TKAST ordered from ABB, the Swedish leader in power and automation technologies, the mill reconstruction, including the entry and exit thickness gauges.

On June 24, 2002, ABB awarded the gauge contract to IRM group; it required IRM group to use all resources available to manufacture and deliver the gauges as quickly as possible allowing TKAST to restart quickly and at comparable production levels.



Successful project management and coordination

IRM group was proud to provide optimal service to its customer. The contract required system delivery by September 19, 2002. Despite the traditional holiday season, IRM group managed to deliver to site the fully tested gauges on September 13, *one week early*. With the total delivery time of only 11 weeks, IRM group exceeded ABB and TKAST requirements. IRM group's success was due to efficient project management and a coordinated team effort.

IRM group's project coordination included a kick-off and engineering meetings, lead by a dedicated project manager to finalize all details and review the technical specifications.



During manufacture, ABB and TKAST visited IRM group twice to ensure production was on schedule. Prior to shipment, extensive quality tests were performed and the cables, water chillers and other peripherals were delivered early to TKAST for pre-installation. After the system arrived at site, it was installed, powered up, calibrated to TKAST's products and TKAST's technicians were trained, all within six days.

From left to right :

Yannick BERGMANN, software engineer - Christian HARZE, field engineer -
Xavier HOGGE, project manager

..... **Customer driven quality solutions**

The capability of IRM group personal and product exceeded TKAST 's expectations. In addition to the shorter manufacturing time, IRM group provided a quicker delivery and faster commissioning while still meeting or exceeding all performance specifications. Regarding the measurement performance, base calibration accuracy for both sensors was better than +/- 0,03% (2 sigma) over the entire thickness range. In addition, average statistical noise was less than +/- 0,09% for both gauges over the entire measurement range. Since then, no downtime due to the IRM group thickness gauging system has been reported. Barring any unexpected event, the system will serve TKAST reliably for the next 15 years at least.

Product Description

- Thickness gauges.
- UNI 500* Gauging System with two TVXR-2 X-ray sensors.
- System scope of supply included the dual frame/sensor combination, an Ethernet network interface and an on-line alloy calibration algorithm.
- Entry and Exit TVXR-2 X-ray sensors** permanently calibrated to a single high voltage (95 kV ; 0,5 mA) covering a thickness range from 300 to 6500 microns.

* UNI 500 is the common platform used on all IRM group's products.

** IRM group thickness gauges do not require standard magazine.

ABB & TKAST recognized the professional capability of IRM group's team. Dedicated project management, communication, short delivery, quick start-up, product quality and after-sale service were keys to IRM group's success.

If you know of anyone else who would like to receive this newsletter, please send us an e-mail info@irmgroup.info

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