



FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR NEW DESCALER

Our new £1.9m descaling system at our Skinningrove mill is fully operational following its successful installation during the summer shutdown.

The 20-strong project team was bolstered by an additional 20 contractors in the final stages of the installation, which involved removing the old equipment and installing the new guidance and descaling stations during the 2 weeks the plant was off for maintenance in August.

The new descaling system will enhance the existing mill process, using high-pressure water technology to break scale from the bars discharged from the 2 re-heat furnaces.

Phil Bentley, Project Manager, said: "The equipment has been designed and supplied by Italian specialists INOXIHP that created a bespoke new system to meet our needs.

"We're confident the new system will fully remove all scale over the full range of our products."

Improving surface quality will help capture market share in a competitive marketplace. Scale that isn't removed properly can be rolled in to the finished product as it passes through the mill, resulting in a poor surface quality.

Cameras have been installed after the descaling stations that capture every bar's surface image, which is then used by software developed in-house to measure the percentage of scale removal.

Operation and maintenance workshops with mechanical and electrical teams are ongoing to make sure they're fully trained and confident using the new equipment.

The descaling system is currently undergoing performance tests, which include surface quality and machine availability with very positive results so far.

Phil added: "This has been very much a multi-discipline project with significant work from civil, structural, mechanical, piped services, both low-voltage and high-voltage electrical and finally system software teams.

"They did a fantastic job with the installation and commissioning. We had a lot to do in a short period of time and they achieved this with no injuries.

"The new descaling stations are located in small and compact spaces, which proved challenging in both the design and execution of the project. It was the good planning and attention to detail that helped us achieve what we did and it's a credit to everyone involved."

Customers are now being invited to come and see the new equipment in operation and we've already had some encouraging feedback.

Engineering, Development & Product Quality Manager David Hogg said: "A special thanks to the project team who has been working on this since the investment was approved at the start of the year. Thanks also to the rest of the Special Profiles team for their support while we've been installing and testing the new system.

"It's been a challenging and complex task but the benefits we'll get from the new system in terms of being able to offer market-leading surface quality to both existing, and hopefully new, customers will make it all worthwhile."



The 20-strong project team was bolstered by 20 additional specialist contractors at the height of the project to ensure the equipment was installed within the 2-week shutdown period

REDCAR BULK TERMINAL SECURES MAJOR CONTRACTS

Redcar Bulk Terminal (RBT) has secured impressive contracts recently and it continues to grow following our investment – a 50% stake in RBT, which we secured earlier this year.

RBT has a long-term deal with Javelin Global Commodities, handling hundreds of thousands of tonnes of imported coal for use in the power generating sector. It's also agreed a multi-year contract to manage large quantities of granulated blast furnace slag for construction materials supplier Hanson. The steelmaking by-product is ground into a fine powder for use as a cement replacement in ready-mixed concrete.

Previously used as an import facility for iron and coal, RBT now handles and stores a wide range of cargoes such as coal, pet coke, granulated blast furnace slag, aggregates and scrap.

RBT General Manager Garry O'Malley said: "It's fantastic to be working with businesses like Javelin Global Commodities and Hanson, as together we feel we can have a

positive impact – not only on the Teesside economy but the wider economy of the North of England.

"These strong partnerships give me every confidence we'll attract more new customers and become the bulk terminal of choice for importers and exporters alike."

Javelin Global Commodities CEO Peter Bradley said: "We're delighted to support RBT's turnaround. Our partnership will play an important role in coal imports to the UK power generation and cement industry in the need for low-cost, flexible quality and quantity fuel supply arrangements."

Hanson Communications Director David Weeks said: "Following the closure of SSI in October 2015, we now rely solely on imported slag to feed our Teesport grinding plant. Our relationship with RBT will be critical to us in the future."

British Steel CEO Peter Bernscher said: "I'd like to thank everyone at RBT for their efforts so far and I'm convinced of their ability to continue growing the business."



A ship discharging its cargo at Redcar Bulk Terminal

Bonjour Hayange

Last month, our CEO Peter Bernscher visited our Hayange rail mill for the first time, accompanied by Managing Director Rail Peter Smith. He was given a warm welcome from our French colleagues, who gave him a tour to show him what goes on in the mill.

