

COOLING FILTRATION CUTS DOWNTIME at ASW Steel Rolling Mill

ASW is a specialist manufacturer of steel products mainly derived from recycled scrap metal, producing some half a million tonnes of steel from its rolling mill in Sheerness.

The mill, which features 16 rolling stands, uses continuous cooling water to keep the bar at the correct temperature and prevent roll breakages.

The original cooling system at ASW relied on gravity to remove contaminants and mill scale. However, this was proving ineffective and regular blockages in the coolant nozzles were causing overheating, roll breakages and interruptions in production - resulting in significant inconvenience and costs. Local filters were installed at each rolling stand, but there were still problems with high maintenance and downtime through blockages.

After looking at a number of filtration options and following the successful installation of a Bollfilter automatic filter in the casting line, ASW decided to fit a similar system to the cooling water at the roll mill.

The system incorporates a pre-screening basket strainer linked to the Bollfilter 6.18 self-cleaning filter, with all functions controlled by a microprocessor control panel. Operating at 1363m³/hr (at a maximum 16 bar) with a filtration level of 500 microns, the unit provides a total filtration area of 57320 cm² by means of 40 high precision slot screen elements.

ASW is pleased with the result. Central Maintenance Manager Tony Phillips explains. "We don't get as many blockages on the line, which reduces roll breakages and downtime. In fact, the complete installation has had a payback of just 6 months"

Client System ASW
6.18 Self-cleaning Filter



Part of the ASW casting line.



Bollfilter Field Engineer, Paul Moore, carrying out routine maintenance.



Bollfilter 6.18 filter installation.