

ABB receives a Surface Imaging System order for a hot rolling mill in Japan

Helsinki, Finland, October 26, 2009 – ABB, the leading power and automation technology group, has been awarded a Surface Imaging System (SIS) order for a hot rolling mill from a steel manufacturer in Japan. This is ABB's first Surface Imaging System order in Asia for a hot rolling mill.

The revolutionary breakthrough achieved by ABB's SIS is its ability to dramatically reduce the time and effort on adjusting the optimum threshold value thanks to ABB's patented cutting-edge neural network technology.

“The growing demand of SIS in hot rolling mill reflects the emphasis on high quality and efficiency in Japan. As ABB uses its extensive experience in metal industry and cutting-edge engineering technology, we are pleased to also contribute to the development of the metal industry in Japan,” says Mr. Taizo Kusakabe, division manager in ABB Process Automation.

SIS is a visual inspection system that detects and classifies surface defects of strip both in hot and cold rolling processes. Until now, setting a threshold value has been requiring enormous amount of time and input from the operators to identify defect samples. Typically, it can take up to a whole year to finalize setting the threshold value with numerical entry to specify defect types. But nowadays ABB's SIS neural network automatically organizes defects into classified groups with calculated values or features of defects and users can confirm specified defect types in the form of visual images. As numerical (manual) entries are not required, there are enormous savings in time and overall costs

SIS has been available for cold rolling mills for several years but not for hot rolling mills due to the more demanding environment. ABB has now developed the required System hardware and software using sophisticated engineering technology and the result is that now ABB can offer a fully-proven Surface Imaging System for hot rolling mill applications.

ABB (www.abb.com) is a leader in power and automation technologies that enable utility and industry customers to improve their performance while lowering environmental impact. The ABB Group of companies operates in around 100 countries and employs about 120,000 people.

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