Press

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Primetals Technologies Receives Final Acceptance for Automation Upgrade at Shougang Hot Strip Mill No. 1

- **Full production achieved just ten days after the annual maintenance shutdown**
- **Quality targets exceeded across a wider range of products**
- **Early detection of process deviations with the Diagnostic Plug, supporting ongoing operational optimization**

Primetals Technologies has recently received the final acceptance certificate (FAC) for the Level 2 automation upgrade of Hot Strip Mill No. 1 at Shougang Qian'an Iron & Steel Co. in China. The project included modernizing the existing Level 2 system and selected Level 1 functions for the reversing roughing stands, the six-stand finishing mill, the sizing press and the coil box.

Improved Product Quality and Process Performance

The upgrade extends the material database, so a broader range of steel grades can now be modeled with higher accuracy. Modern process models enable more precise calculations and predictions and helped the mill clearly exceed the agreed performance targets. Several customer-specific functions were implemented, and the mill's cooling strategies were further refined.

Process engineers gain earlier insight into process and quality data through the Diagnostic Plug, an advanced analysis and diagnostic tool. It makes deviations visible early, so maintenance engineers can respond quickly and optimize operations on an ongoing basis.

With the implementation of the Contour and Flatness Optimizer, Shougang's hot strip mill has reached a new level of strip shape control. Advanced process models, adaptive learning, and coordinated actuator control deliver superior profile and flatness performance, resulting in improved product consistency and operational stability.

Fast and Low-Risk Production Ramp-Up

Primetals Technologies teams combined their modeling and commissioning expertise with Shougang’s engineers to deliver an integrated approach from modeling through commissioning. A key highlight was the preparation for production ramp-up. The model was intensively trained during a four-week shadow-mode operation to ensure a smooth start. Level 2 commissioning was then completed within a scheduled ten-day annual maintenance shutdown.

Within the first five production days, the mill reached about 90 percent of its average daily output. Just ten days after the first coil, it was running at full production capacity.

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Letter of Thanks and Future Steps

Shougang has thanked Primetals Technologies with a formal Letter of Thanks for the professional execution of the project and the excellent cooperation. The next step is already in sight: further collaboration under an Electrics and Automation service agreement is planned.

Shougang Qian'an's offers a full range of cold- and hot-rolled steel products, including electrical steel, automotive steel, pipeline steel, and sheet for the home appliance industry, along with value-added services.



Shougang Qian’an’s and Primetals Technologies’ project team.



First coil rolled at Shougang’s site.

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