

PRESS RELEASE

Weinsberg, 4th November, 2011

Intralogistics system with inductive power transfer

Fully automatic coil transport in Hydro aluminium mill

Hydro Aluminium Rolled Products GmbH has commissioned Vollert Anlagenbau to modernise its existing plant in Grevenbroich by designing an end-to-end intralogistics system that automatically loads and unloads lorries, stores up to 4,000 tons of aluminium coil, and uses trolleys with inductive power transfer.

Litho aluminium strips serve as carrier material for offset printing plates and are very sensitive. This is why it is a particular challenge to transport them safely and without damage within a plant. The modernization of the Hydro plant in Grevenbroich, one of the world's largest production sites for the rolling and refining of aluminium, will also enable the production of coils that are twice as heavy as they are now. A great deal of effort was therefore spent to realise a system that safely and automatically unloads the delicate aluminium coils off of the lorry, transports them to the high-bay warehouse and the new Sexto mill, and loads them for shipping. "A fully-automated transport system for the mill eliminates the need for forklifts or other equipment and minimizes the risk of the coils being damaged", says Frank Hirschmann, Litho Production Manager at Hydro, when explaining the benefits.

Automatic Loading and Unloading

An automatic crane loads and unloads the trucks and can handle coils of different lengths thanks to its contour inspection and special gripping systems. With 6 meters of vertical lift and a ground speed of 1.5 meters per second, the crane travels to the rack feeder 40 meters away, rotates 90 degrees, and unloads the coils. The building of the existing high-bay warehouse will be extended by raising the roof and erecting a 25-metre high, 60-metre long steel structure with eight levels for accommodating up to 4,000 tons of coils. The conveyors will also be modified to move a maximum of 11 tons, thereby increasing payload by over 200 percent.

Inductive Coil Trolleys

The single-aisle rack feeder moves the coils between the working processes in and out of storage, and inductive trolleys shuttle them to the mill while providing vertical access without a drag chain. "Inductive power transfer makes it possible to design the work area

more flexibly", explains Vollert project manager Dieter Schnell. "Not only does the plant's roll-changing car need to be negotiated; nearby personnel must also be taken into account. The coil trolleys move through the high-bay warehouse and mill without being pulled by a cable." Compatible with the existing layout, the entire intralogistics system should be fully integrated by mid-2012.

About Vollert Anlagenbau GmbH

As specialists for heavy loads and large parts, Vollert Anlagenbau GmbH develops turnkey intralogistic concepts for the aluminum and metal industry. As a general contractor and full-service provider, the service range encompasses state-of-the-art material flow, storage and packaging technology as a stand-alone solution or integrated into a larger logistics environment.

Whether fully automated mega-high bay systems for aluminum coils, intelligent material flow systems for the leading aluminum extrusion press manufacturers, the world's most efficient storage and retrieval machines for the storage of sheet metal plates, automatic crane systems for 50 tons and more or the most modern surface coating systems – Vollert is everywhere.

Vollert's plant and machine solutions are used in more than 80 countries worldwide. Its subsidiaries in Asia and South America also strengthen the sales activities. Vollert employs 250 people at its company headquarters in Weinsberg. **www.vollert.de**

Press contact

Frank Brost

Senior Marketing Manager

Vollert Anlagenbau GmbH
Stadtseestr. 12
74189 Weinsberg/Germany
Phone: +49 7134 52 355
Fax: +49 7134 52 203
E-mail: frank.brost@vollert.de

SOURCE: Hydro



The Hydro Aluminium Rolled Products GmbH modernises its rolling mill in Grevenbroich for higher production quality. With smooth fully-automatic transport in the whole of the rolling mill and the loading and unloading of lorries, Vollert Anlagenbau ensures secure handling of the sensitive coils in litho quality. The high rack bay provides space for 336 aluminium coils with a total weight of 4,000 tons. (Graphic: Hydro)