

Safety and efficiency improvement go hand in hand

Two tailor-made lance manipulators (LM.2) with temperature and sample taking unit installed at Steel of West Virginia (U.S.A.)

The company Steel of West Virginia (SWVA), based in the university city of Huntington (United States of America), is part of the SDI Group. It operates 2 x 65 short tons electric arc furnaces with an annual capacity of about 280.000 short tons of structural beams, channels and special shape sections reinforcing steel and wire mesh. In 2010 SWVA implemented several upgrades to the melt shop, part of the upgrades were at the caster, a new state-of-the-art centrally located pulpit, the off-gas system, new oxygen technology and a temperature and sample manipulator.

INITIAL SITUATION

Until the upgrade SWVA had injected oxygen and carbon on both furnaces manually, also the samples and temperatures had been taken by hand. The exposure of personnel to the EAF had been high – steel makers had been working on both sides in front of the furnace door. Therefore highest possible safety was the main target.

An initial contact took place in February 2010, where BSE presented different options. From the beginning on it was clear that the LM.2 would be the best solution. It combines the desired safety features with the efficiency SWVA had been accustomed to by their hand lancing. The consumable lance type gives highest efficiency of all tools, since the lances are submerged and there is nearly no loss. With the LM.2 BSE could provide the solution SWVA was looking for:

- ⊙ Highest safety
- ⊙ Efficiency
- ⊙ Space requirements
- ⊙ Delivery in schedule



RESULTS / BENEFITS

Space requirements were critical, and the BSE construction department had to design a true custom made LM.2. Additionally the commissioning was scheduled for the last week of November 2010. Since the order was placed in August 2010, it left BSE only with a bit more than 3 months for delivery to plant site. But even this hurdle was accomplished. After less than 4 months from purchase order, the LM.2 could be operated for the first time in December 2010.

CUSTOMER FEEDBACK

During follow-up visits over the last few months the feedback of our friends at SWVA has been exclusively positive.

“Very professional and fine young engineers from Badische, [...] they made a great job”

Phil Wolfe (day shift supervisor)

“The morale of the guys improved quite a bit, thanks to the implementation of the LM.2”

Mark Gilliam (melt shop manager)

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