

operators activities easier and safer.

As usual, after having decided and approved any investment, the lead-time to have it in operation is always critical. This has been properly considered by T.T. Tomorrow Technology where, as standard way of operating, the automatic slot cutting machines are fully pre-assembled as well as fully tested in operation in our factory, using anodes supplied by client. This ensures fine tuning of operational performance and allows the customer to test accept the machine in the supplier workshop before delivery.

This strategy reduces the installation, commissioning and start-up time and related costs at the customer's site, and so ensures smooth

and fast commissioning and trouble-free delivery. Once equipment is successfully tested at the T.T. workshop, goods are prepared for shipment and delivered to the client's site.

Conclusions

With the latest generation of automatic anodes slotting machines, short payback time starts quickly after short delivery time and smooth implementation.

Slots are successfully cut on an industrial scale in baked anodes up to 450 mm deep and 12, 10 or 8 mm wide.

In addition to the very high economic benefits which directly result from the reduced

ACD distance, smelters using anode slot cutting machines also gain further operational advantages.

The implementation of anode slotting technology allows short payback times, even for smelters with smaller production capacity. It increases production capacity and minimizes production costs. While safeguarding energy resources, it reduces environmental impact by reducing of greenhouses gases and CO₂ emissions.

Author

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Crossing the Atlantic to Argentina

Aluminium producer Aluar trusts in 'versiondog' data management

S. Glasstetter, Auvesy

The Argentinean producer of primary aluminium, Aluar, has a production capacity of around 460,000 tonnes per year. More than two thirds of the production is exported – as ingots, bars, wire and aluminium semis for different industries. The revenue of approx. USD900 million is achieved by 2,245 employees (2016). For data management Aluar relies on the versiondog software from Auvesy.

Between 2005 and 2010, Aluar went through a substantial growth phase where most of the production facilities were upgraded. As a re-

it came to managing the control program software, however, flaws and cracks began to show in the established workflow and version control procedures that, prior to the growth phase, had been based on manual backups and documentation.

A rapid growth in the number of automation and maintenance staff (>100 users) also coincided with increasing accounts of infrequent and incomplete documentation of software versions, which then required an increasing effort where bug tracing and detection were concerned. This increased the risk of incidents that could not only affect opera-

'standard' text-based source control solutions were just not appropriate for versioning binary/proprietary data, while most specific automation version control software had irregular support between different controller brands or failed to deliver a solid version control architecture. In addition, Aluar was concerned in automating the audit tasks in order to ensure the correct program is running in each controller.

It took a long time to find a suitable version control and data management solution until at last the automation team found 'versiondog' on the Internet. Not long afterwards, they requested a test version. "We immediately recognized all of the important features and possibilities that we had been missing up until then," recalls Ares, who then goes on to explain how – after a few emails and a web meeting – the company decided to give versiondog a try without even the need for a sales visit from Auvesy. The 60 days trial license provided by Auvesy allowed Aluar to deploy and test the system completely before purchasing the product.

Thomas Hoerauf, who is in charge of international sales at Auvesy, pressed Aluar to find out who was responsible for carrying out the installation. According to Ares, "we found the software so straightforward and easy to use that we were able to install it ourselves. If you take a look at the installation process, there's nothing really difficult." He goes on to explain



Aluar production site in Puerto Madryn

sult of this expansion, the number of PLCs increased from 100 to 300 in the purview of Federico Ares, Automation Project Engineer at Aluar. These controllers predominately consist of Siemens S7-300 and S7-400. When

tion but also result in stoppages at the mid-term. It also increased the risk of safety risks remaining undetected.

Ares recalls the long way in the search for a suitable version control system. Usual

