

New Technology for Blast Equipment Keeps Abrasive Cleaner

WHEELABRATOR has developed a new technology for abrasive separators that addresses the issue of uneven abrasive distribution and residual sand in abrasive cycles of foundry blast equipment. The Abrasive Curtain Regulator (ACR), showcased at CastExpo 2016 in Minneapolis, ensures a full abrasive curtain is maintained at all times, which results in better cleaning of the abrasive as well as more consistent blast wheel performance.

The ACR can be adapted to fit various Wheelabrator and non-Wheelabrator abrasive separators.

Without the ACR, gaps can occur in the abrasive curtain, allowing air to be freely drawn through the curtain—without the air fully carrying out its cleaning task. An intact abrasive curtain ensures blast media is distributed evenly across all blast wheels, which is important for a consistent treatment of each part. The ACR also stabilizes the condition of the abrasive operating mix, prevents unnecessary abrasive waste and thereby provides better control of operating costs.

Brian Cappallo, Director of Sales and Service at Wheelabrator Plus, explains: “It’s easy to dismiss devices like the ACR as an add-on to an add-on to auxiliary equipment. But especially in heavy-duty environments, this little device can make a huge difference to operations. Abrasive going through foundry blast equipment is a significant cost factor, and a well-controlled blast process is important in achieving consistent product quality. Adding the ACR means foundries can make the most of the abrasive they use, reduce waste and improve the efficiency of the blast process. The device can easily be included in regular equipment upgrades and maintenance and will pay for itself quickly.” ●



The Abrasive Curtain Regulator from Wheelabrator

TITAN Wheel Upgrade Cuts Blast Cycle Time at AVK Polska

AVK POLSKA, a manufacturer of valves for water, sewage systems, gas and industrial extinguishing systems in Poland, has reduced the time it takes them to blast clean vital components by around 30%. This significant reduction in cycle time at the company’s Pniewy operation has been achieved by upgrading existing hanger blast machines with Wheelabrator TITAN blast wheels.

The blast machines are an integral part of the production process, and are used to clean cast iron workpieces ahead of powder-coating.

Before the upgrades, AVK was managing long, complicated and time-consuming processes in order to obtain spare parts for the existing blast wheels, causing delays to essential maintenance and unnecessary downtime.

These issues, along with concerns about one machine in particular, prompted the company to contact the team at Wheelabrator Poland.

After assessing AVK’s needs, Wheelabrator replaced the two original wheels on the machine in question with 11kW TITAN blast wheels. Advantages the TITAN wheel offered over the existing wheels included:

- improved blast performance,
- reduced abrasive consumption,
- improved machine uptime, and
- noise reduction.

In addition to these technical advantages, Wheelabrator was able to guarantee local availability of spare parts and short lead times for obtaining them.

As the company has a dedicated office in Poland, the Wheelabrator team could also offer service support locally.

While AVK’s problems around servicing and sourcing of parts was the initial reason for replacing the wheels, operations in Pniewy also benefitted from the 30% reduction in cycle time, which has created headroom for production increases. The company was so impressed with the reliability and performance of the TITAN wheels, they commissioned a wheel upgrade for another machine shortly after.

Leszek Rogacz, Chief Process Engineer at AVK said: “Getting spare parts for our blast wheels was proving almost impossible in the time scales we wanted. We knew there had to be a more efficient way of staying on top of blast wheel

maintenance. We contacted Wheelabrator initially to ask them to upgrade the wheels on our oldest machine.

“The new TITAN wheels surpassed our expectations. Not only has our parts sourcing become more steady and straightforward, which allows us to plan maintenance better and reduce downtime, but the significant reduction in cycle time has given us more production capacity as well. With results like that, it was just common sense to ask Wheelabrator to replace the wheels on one of our other machines too.”

The upgrades were carried out between August 2014 and July 2015 and were part of the Equipment Modernisation program by Wheelabrator. Benefits of this program include:

- Increase machine uptime and reliability
- Lower maintenance costs
- Reduce blast cycle time
- Reduce machine wear
- Achieve a higher cleaning standard
- Decrease operational risks
- Improve cost / performance ratio
- Superior abrasive separation
- Intelligent design

For more information, visit www.wheelabratorgroup.com. ●

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