

Minimising energy loss in hot rolling by intelligent manufacturing



PROJECT DETAILS

Funding Programme:
 Research Fund of Coal and
 Steel (RFCS)
 Sub-Programme:
 Steel Research
 Funding Scheme:
 Research Project
 Project Reference:
 00008;
 UE-10-RFSR-CT-2010-00008
 Project Duration:
 42 Months (from 2010-07-01
 to 2013-12-30)
 Total Project Value:
 € 1.886.437
 EU Grant-Aid:
 € 1.131.862
 Funding to UniOvi:
 € 302.001'43

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The main energy input in hot rolling is the latent heat of hot charged slabs and the gasses applied in the reheating furnaces. The second energy input however is electricity. Several studies have already been performed as the energy efficiency in less than 40%. The energy loss in the hot rolling mill after reheating furnaces can however not be neglected as it represents 50% of the total energy loss in hot rolling operations. The energy loss consists mainly of electricity loss in the rolling stands and the coilers and the loss of thermal energy of the hot products by descaling systems, cooling systems and radiation. A through energy study of the hot rolling process from the reheating to the coiler has not yet been performed. Furthermore a lot of opportunities remain, related to the reduction of electricity in auxiliary systems (30% of the total electricity) and to recovery of the thermal energy in the hot rolled product by the use of new advanced technologies.

The objective of this proposal is to:

- minimize energy consumption in hot rolling
- define all energy flows in the hot rolling operation
- and, to recover as most as possible of the applied energy (e.g. latent heat) by intelligent manufacturing: the application of low energy technologies, the accurate knowledge of the process changes on the total energy consumption, an optimal scheduling and the recovery of heat.

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