



Tobias Blomström at the "Central process development system" evaluates communication with a Hitachi printer.

SSAB BORLÄNGE

INFORMATION SENT DIRECTLY FROM THE CENTRAL COMPUTER.

SSAB in Borlänge has unique knowledge of the production of extremely high-tensile steels.

High quality marking is required on the paint line where the cold-rolled sheet steel is coated. SSAB uses Hitachi PXR ink-jet printers supplied by Svenska Allen for this purpose.

Sheet steel is produced very quickly; it is fed out at a speed of 60 metres per minute. Production runs around the clock, 365 days a year.

Since the production rate is so high, production stops are very costly. They must be kept to an absolute minimum.

One of the reasons for SSAB deciding on Svenska Allen as the supplier was that we had previously installed Hitachi printers at its sister factory, SSAB in Finspång. This installation was completed in 2008, and since then SSAB has evaluated the printers under production conditions with the manufacture of coated sheet steel.

The evaluation showed that the Hitachi PXR printers are highly reliable and cause very little down-time. SSAB's good experience of Svenska Allen as a supplier together with the positive results of the production evaluation meant that it could, with full confidence, proceed with its investment in new Hitachi PXP printers.

Central information:

In conjunction with new investment, SSAB decided to implement fully automatic product changes through direct connection to the central computer.

This means in practice that the printers at both factories are linked and receive information on the product data that is to be printed on the steel directly from the central computer. The risk involved when an operator manually downloads a layout is thus eliminated. There is now absolutely no risk of the wrong information being printed out.

Tobias Blomström from the "Central process development system" explains how it works. An operator on the production line selects an order for production. The system then obtains the correct layout for marking from the central computer. Product information is sent directly to the Hitachi

printers. This all happens fully automatically each time a new production batch is registered.

In addition to the most important factor, namely that reliability has been greatly improved by the Hitachi printers, the consumption of make-up has also been reduced.

Production technician, Sören Jensen, on the paint line tells us that production stops relating to the marking equipment have been reduced to a minimum, which is extremely important for us.

