

Major rolling mill automation upgrade project at GERDAU in Selkirk (MB), Canada.

AIC successfully commissioned the major Rolling Mill Automation upgrade project at Selkirk (MB) plant. The project confirms the good cooperation between AIC and GERDAU group, sealed after the main rolling mill upgrade project done at Jackson, TN plant and several other projects on GERDAU's facilities.

The scope of the project included the complete rolling mill automation starting from the reheating furnace exit until the cooling bed, including the rougher area, pendulum shear, continuous mill composed by 14 stands and 2 start/stop shears, intermediate and dividing shears, a full complete cooling bed entry conveyor, braking slide and cooling bed. Strategical motor drives were also replaced at site together with the automation upgrade to increase the production capacity of the mill. The first part of the upgrade has been commissioned and the second part of the upgrade is foreseen for the summer 2020 outage.

As part of the solution, the replacement of the obsolete Automax PLC system at site (including rolling mill control, descaler, water system, auxiliaries based on obsolete Automax, SLC500 and PLC5 from AB) was made with a new AB CLX PLC and auxiliary DC drives of ABB brand and AC drives from AB.

The main upgrade has improved performances and reduced both operating expenses (Opex) and the loss of time, thanks to the replacement of all obsolete control systems and the installation of new drives.

The commissioning was completed on time within the previously agreed time frame and took only two weeks. The production has started at full capacity since day one.



AIC is a global system integrator providing advanced and tailored automation and robotic solutions for the steel industry, with the aim to continuously improve both efficiency, competitiveness and safety of the production processes. With more than 1000 applications worldwide and more than 40 years of history, AIC can boost a unique experience in both greenfield and revamping projects in meltshops and long products rolling mills.

Gerdau is a major supplier of long steel in the Americas, and one of the world's largest suppliers of special steel. Gerdau's North American business divisions manufacture steel products for the agricultural, automotive, civil construction, energy, industrial, and mining markets. Gerdau stimulates the economy through its network of recycling operations and mills, operating 10 mills in the U.S. and three in Canada. Gerdau's mills utilize efficient and clean production practices, including the use of electric arc furnace (EAF) technology. The company's robust recycling practices transform millions of tons of scrap metals into steel products each year. This makes Gerdau's steel one of the greenest choices available.

This press release is available at

- <http://www.aicnet.it/rassegna-stampa/>

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