

Blue for Russia and Grey for Spain

Two complete tube mills in the finishing and pre-testing phase at our headquarters in Piacenza.

Both lines are engineered to produce carbon steel tubes: one is destined for Russia to produce structural tubes, and the other one is destined for Spain for the automotive industry.

The “blue” one for Russia, is a last of three lines for the same customer, one of the most important Russian tube manufacturers. The first two are currently being commissioned, and are destined to produce structural and API tubes. Their

capacity ranges from OD 21mm up to 89mm and from OD 40mm up to 133mm; both lines are complete with fully automatic strip loading systems, quick roll change system for breakdown, finpass and sizing sections, chamfering and hydrostatic testing with washing unit and automatic packaging machine.

This last line, the smallest, is for tubes OD from 12.7mm up to 60mm and thickness from 0.8mm to 3mm. The maximum line speed is 150 m/min and the HF welding generator is a 300 kW power unit. Special features of this line are the quick roll change system for



breakdown, finpass and sizing sections and the fully automatic coil strip loading system, which begins with a carousel with 4 arms of 30t each and a special car for automatic loading of each strip coil on the double decoiler.

The biggest “grey” line destined in Spain is for round, square and rectangular sections, OD from 41mm to OD 130mm, and thickness from 1.2mm to 6mm. It is a line designed to produce high tensile strength steel tube for the automotive industry. In this case, the maximum line speed is 120 m/min and the HF generator is 500 kW. As with the previous line, this is also equipped with quick roll

change system for breakdown, finpass and sizing sections and the automatic loading system, which begins with a carousel 4 arms 30t cad and an automatic system for the loading of each strip coil on the double decoiler.

Both lines have been pre-tested at our headquarters and are currently in the process of disassembling for truck loading, and their subsequent commissioning at the customer’s site.

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30 Million tube bends and still going strong - 24/7!

A tube bending cell based on a Unison all-electric machine has just fabricated its five millionth part at Olicana Products Ltd. As each part has six bends, the Unison machine has made over 30 million bends since installation in 2004! The cell makes one tubular frame complete with fixing holes every 11 seconds.

Based near Leeds, Olicana Products specialises in tubular

parts for mid to high volume applications, and works for clients predominantly in the furniture and bathroom sectors, as well as the high volume automotive sector through its new manufacturing arm Autotubetech LLP. The Unison tube bending machine and cell has needed only routine maintenance since its installation. It has operated for nine years - producing parts

typically on a two-shift schedule - during the day, and overnight on an unmanned ‘lights-out’ shift. All that’s required for production to continue overnight is for the input hopper to be filled before staff leave. In the morning, up to 2000 finished parts are stacked and ready for shipping.

“We try to develop long-term supply relationships with clients, and are happy to invest

in automation to ensure that we deliver a superior service,” says Rupert Pearson, Managing Director of Olicana Products Ltd. “In this case the cell allows us to make large quantities economically, but also to respond flexibly and quickly to changes in demand, and to re-program easily to put new parts into production rapidly.” “Durability and reliability are central elements ▶