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World's largest waterjet cutting machine installed

Dillinger Hütte, one of the world's major steel makers supplying more than 3,000 clients from manufacturing plants around the globe, believe they have installed the world's largest waterjet cutting machine, certainly in Europe, at their main plant at Dillingen/Saar, Germany, a massive, custom-built, three cutting heads Water Jet Sweden NC 40180 T (pictured), having a cutting workbed area of 18 metres in length x 4 metres width.

The machine is to be used mainly for cutting heavy, hardened steel plates up to 18 metres in length x 300 mm thickness for the offshore oil and gas industries, among other applications.

Linear drives

Investment in the more expensive linear drives makes sense when used in conjunction with multiple cutting heads whereby they will all cut identical contours over long periods of time. This is the reason that this machine is equipped with three abrasive heads.

Compared with a rotary motor with ball-driven spindles, linear drive offers greater precision, minimal wear and tear and no need for attendance.

Because of the construction of the linear drive, movements are carried out in the most precise way and all other sources of faults, such as gearing, linkage, transmission drive and ball-driven spindles, are avoided.

Said Dr. Alfred Neis, Director Production Planning and Rolling Mill Dillinger Hütte: "This is our first investment in waterjet cutting technology. We see benefits in the machine's advanced technology in terms of special table size and load capacity up to 3,000 Kg/m², accuracy within 0.1 to 0.2 mm up to 18 metres, cutting capability of hardened materials, and not least, intelligent nesting and distance programming between the cutting edges to ensure very high ratio of production to capacity of the sheet."

Other technical specifications

Linear motors on all motion axes X and Y; water cooling system; worldwide patented Gejdning high-precision system; the three cutting heads, each having KMT 50hp SLV

pumps; absolute measurement/scale system; and the newly-developed and specially-adapted Siemens 840D CNC system.

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Editor's note

The first Water Jet Sweden AB plant built only 14 years ago at Ronneby, Sweden, has established itself as the leading source worldwide of the ultimate in accuracy in water jet cutting technology and the construction and supply of the much larger waterjet cutting machines, hence its rapid growth to a supplier of standard and custom-built machines around the world, including Russia and China

The company has doubled its output capacity and floor area with the start-up in November 2006 of a newly-built, second plant and Showroom on the Ronneby site in southern Sweden. Production of the new plant will even exceed that of the pre-existing plant as a result of the introduction of new, more advanced manufacturing technology.

In Europe, in addition to the long-established Water Jet sister company in Germany, WATER JET Wasserstrahl Schneidetechnik GmbH in Neustadt, there are subsidiary companies now established in the UK, WJS UK Ltd; and in Poland, Water Jet Polska.

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PHOTOGRAPHS CONTAINED ON CD ATTACHED



The Water Jet Sweden NC 40180 T Profiler with three cutting heads and a cutting workbed area of 18 metres in length x 4 metres width.



The newly-developed and specially-adapted Siemens 840D CNC console system