



25 Years Experience,

Continuous Improvements and Developments in Infrared Surface Inspection (Therm-O-Matic®).

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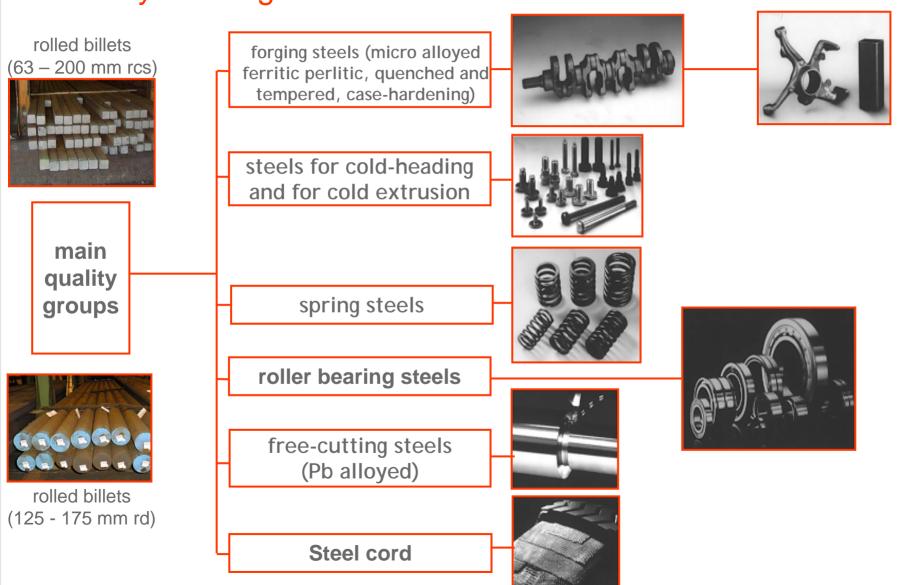
Presentation of our company Long Carbon Europe – ArcelorMittal Ruhrort



2007 production 1,2 Mio t of semi-finished materials

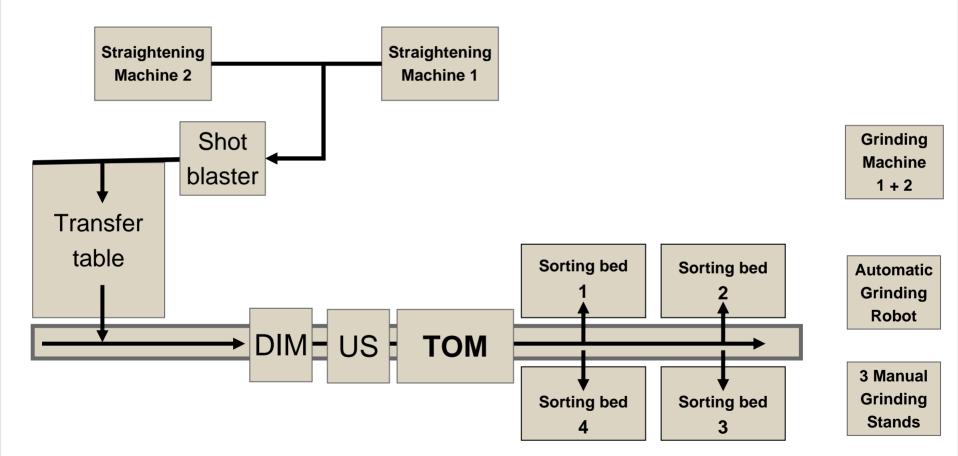


Presentation of our company The way of using steel from Ruhrort





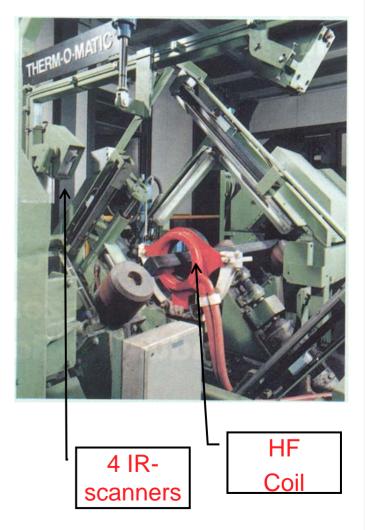
Layout Billet Conditioning Line





Therm-O-Matic[®] Principle

- Temperature of the surface will increase momentarily by the induced current in the surface of a billet when running through a HF-coil.
- If there is a defect open to the surface, the defect will create an additional local temperature increase ΔT in the defective area.
- 4 IR-scanners take a temperature profile across the billet as it moves through the machine.
- 4 signal processor units analyze the temperature image to detect defects deeper than depth thresholds for marking.
- The increase of ΔT is proportional to depth of cracks

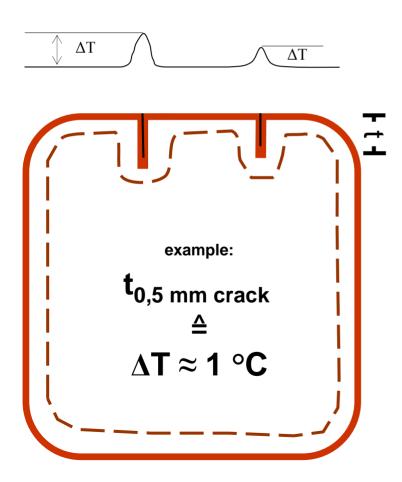


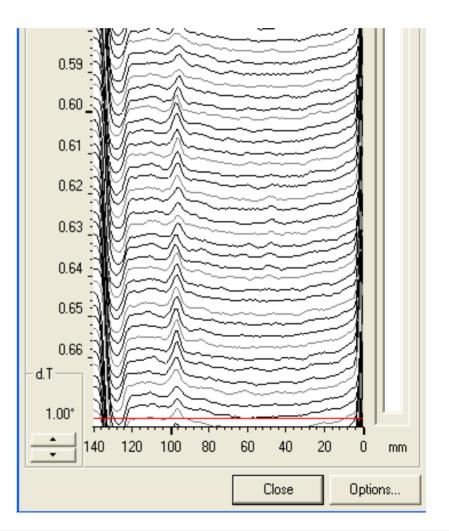
Thyssen Aktuell-86



Detection principle

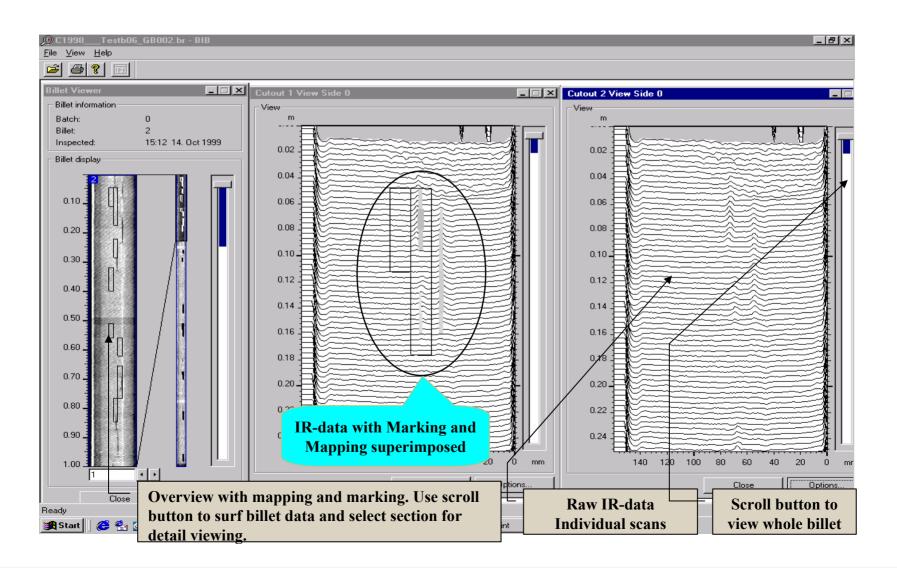
Defect signal ΔT





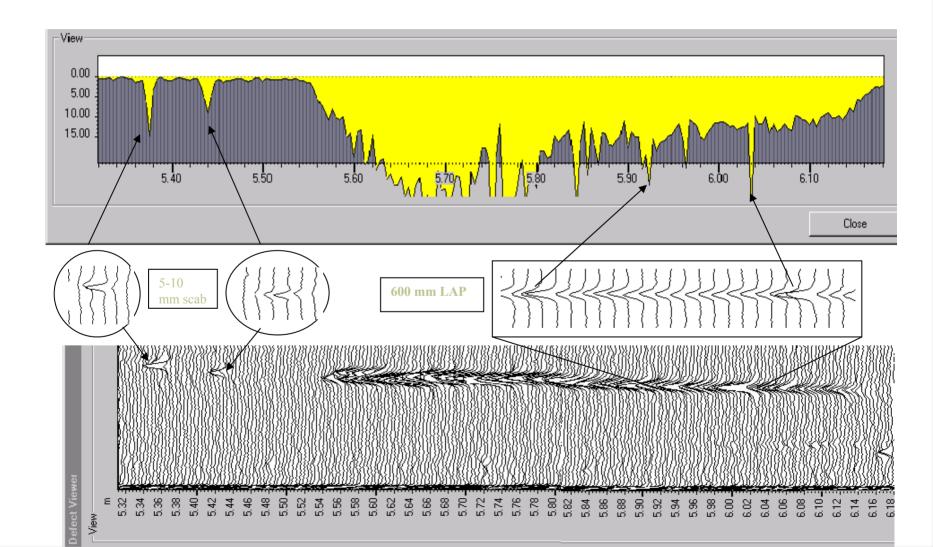


Defect viewer (BIS)



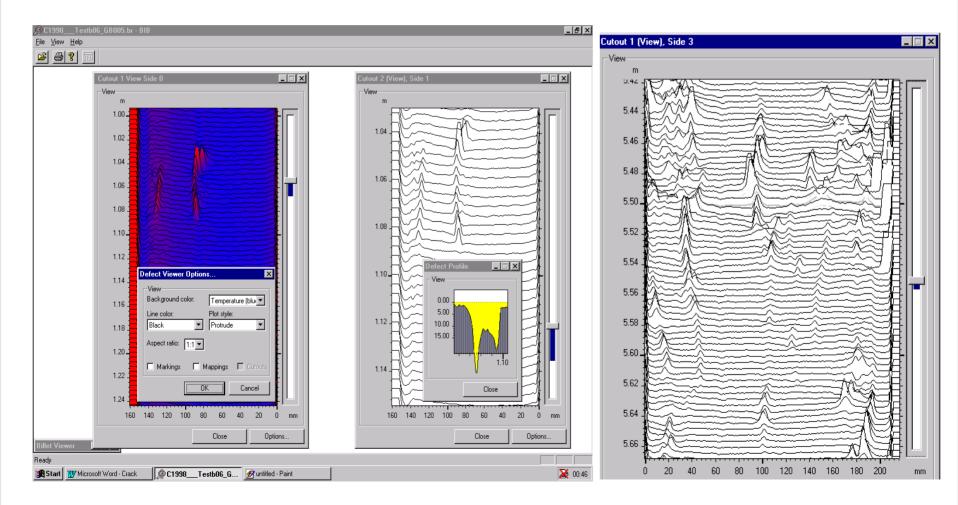


Defect signatures of Scabs and Overlaps



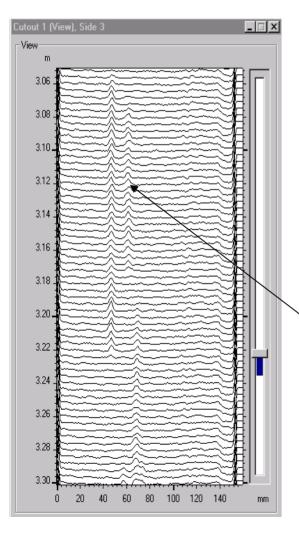


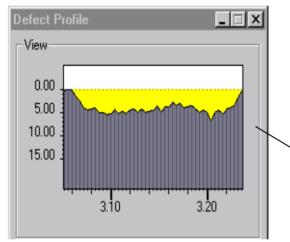
Defect signatures of Scabs

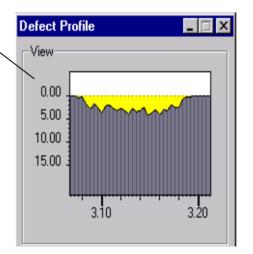


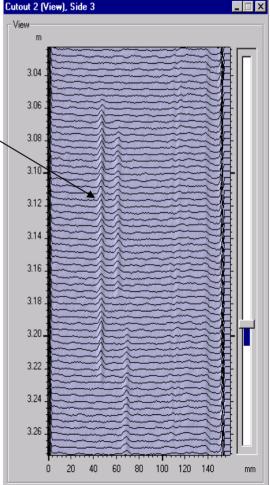


Defect signature of cracks











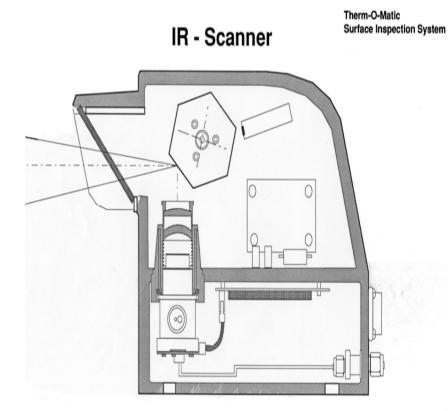
Therm-O-Matic [®] **Key Components**

		supplier
1.	HF-generator	EFD
2.	Sensitive IR-scanner	Elkem/Saab
3.	Special signal processing unit	Scanmatic
4.	Know-how of important factors required	
	to optimize inspection performance	IRTech



IR-Scanner

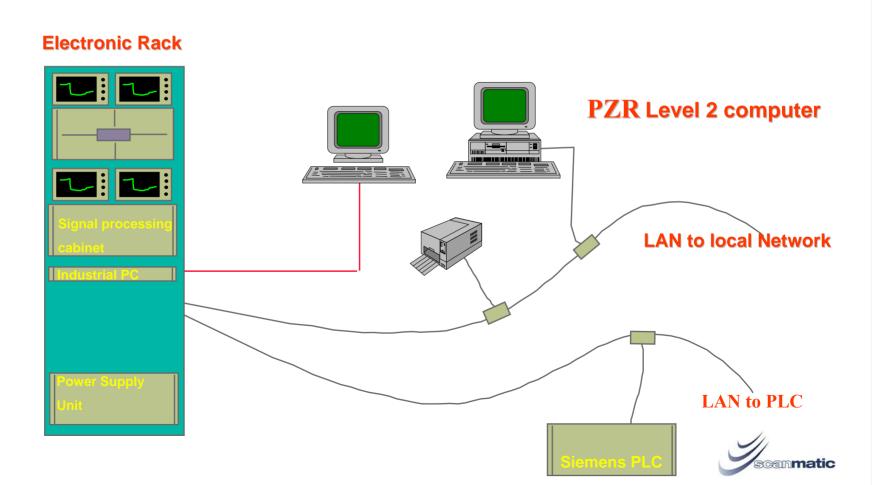
- Sensitive IR-scanner developed by Elkem/Saab
 - High sensitivity
 - Reliable operation, > 22
 years of continuous
 trouble free operation
 - Adapted to steel mill condition
 - Joule Thompson cooler







Signal Processing Overview





Input to process control

• HF	-power
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- Billet size and shape
- Billet temperature
- Billet speed & Billet position
- Steel grade
- Scan line distance
- Detection threshold

(from HF-generator)

(from operator)

(calculated by process)

(from CCD cameras)

(from operator)

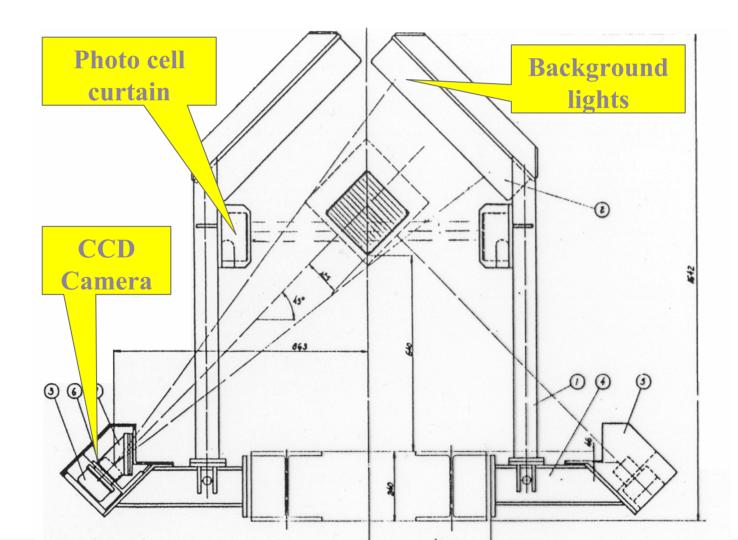
(set up)

(from operator)



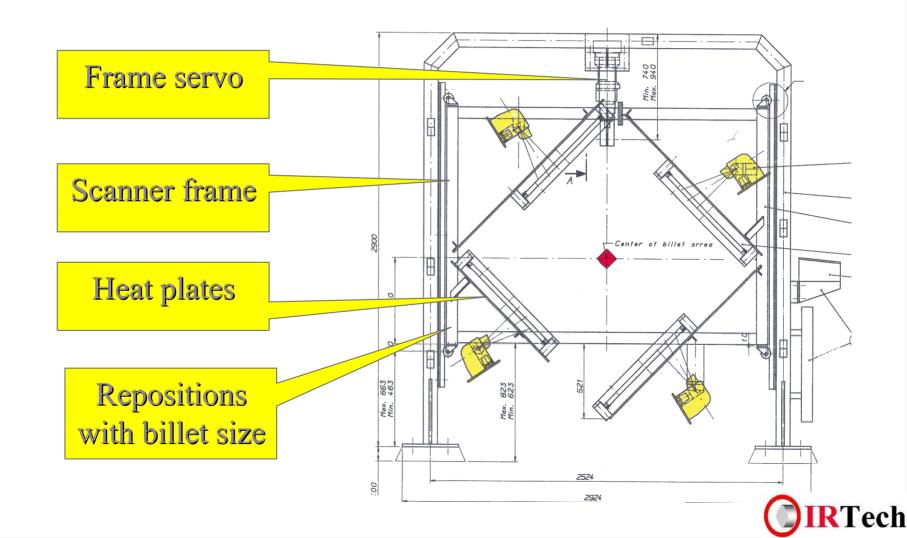


Billet size and position measurement



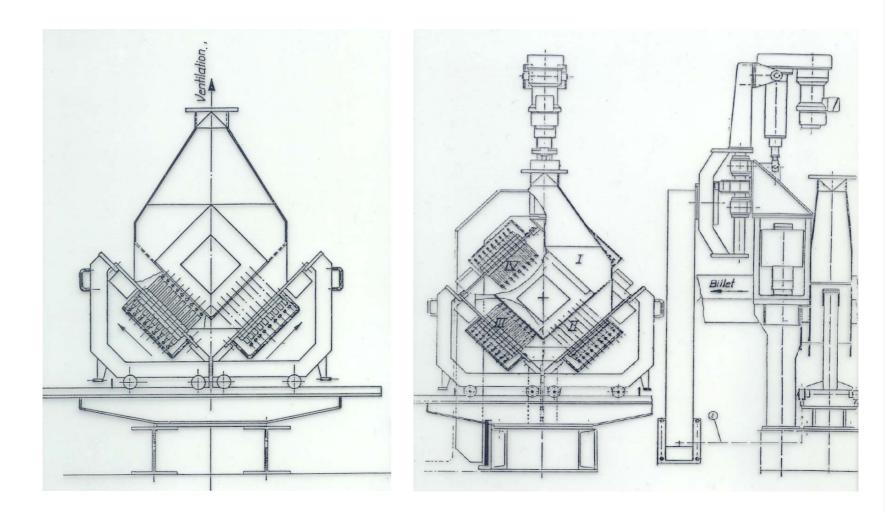


Scanner frame



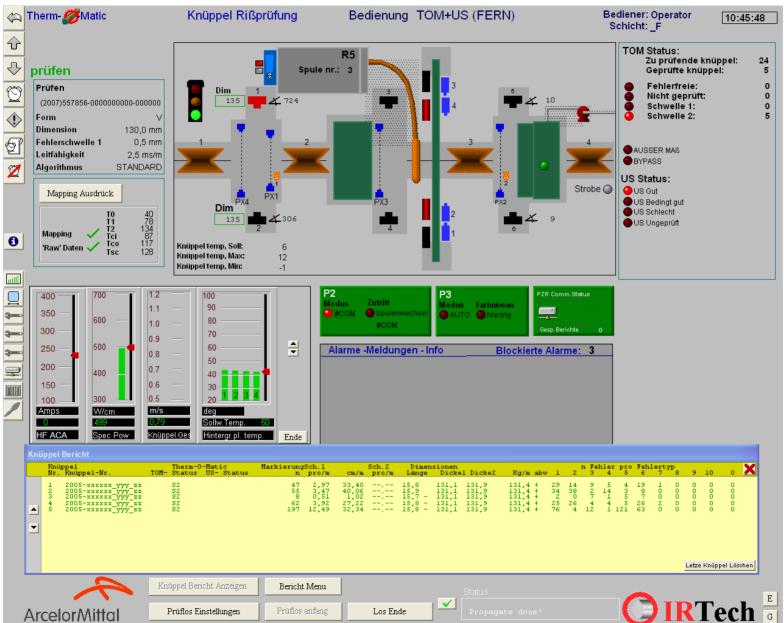


Marking station



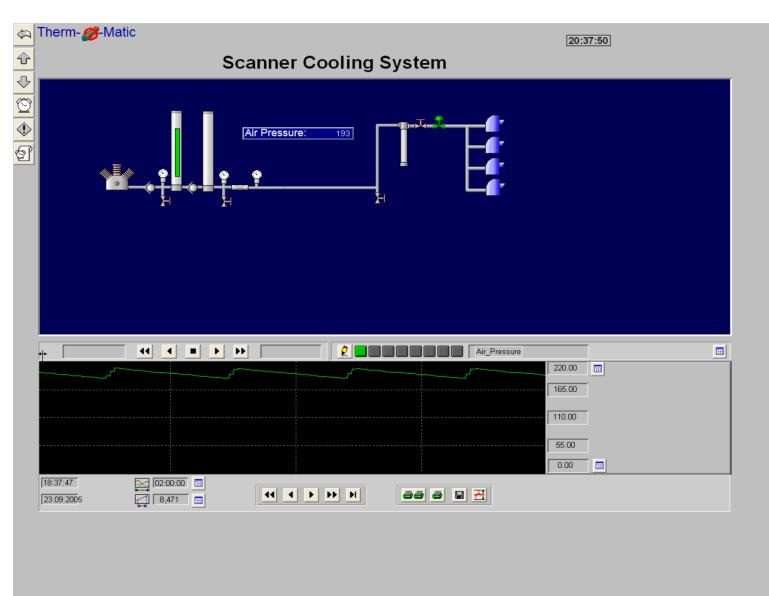
Main Control page







Scanner cooling circuit





Reasons for investment in Therm-O-Matic[®]

Capability test in Ruhrort (Sept. 1982) in order to prove this new inspection method:

Defect detection capability equal to Magnetograph!

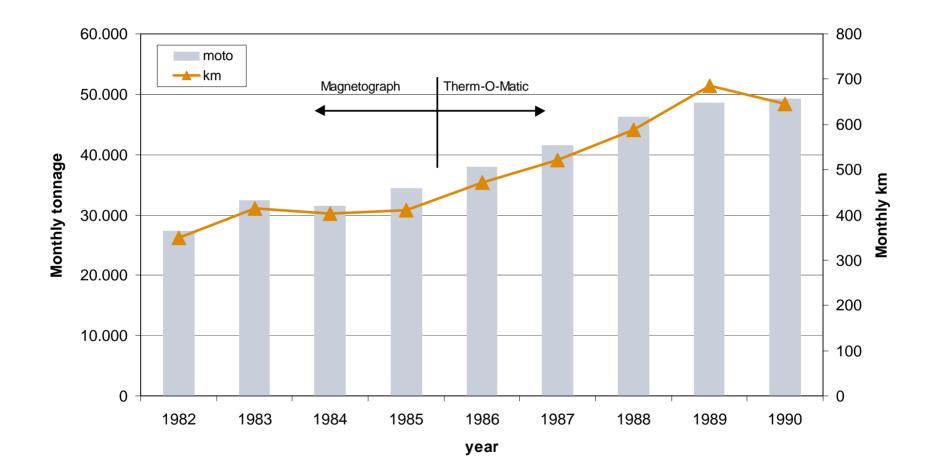
Conclusion: Test results were very exciting on rolled billets.

Improvements in comparison with Magnetograph:

- Inspects round and squares 50 250mm
- Contact less (only speed measuring wheels are touching the billet)
- Higher inspection speed (1 m/s)
- Linear and independent adjustable detection thresholds: 0,3 1,5 mm
- Accurate true to position marking of defects on bended billets
- Small size and easy to integrate into existing line
- Higher availability
- Lower running costs



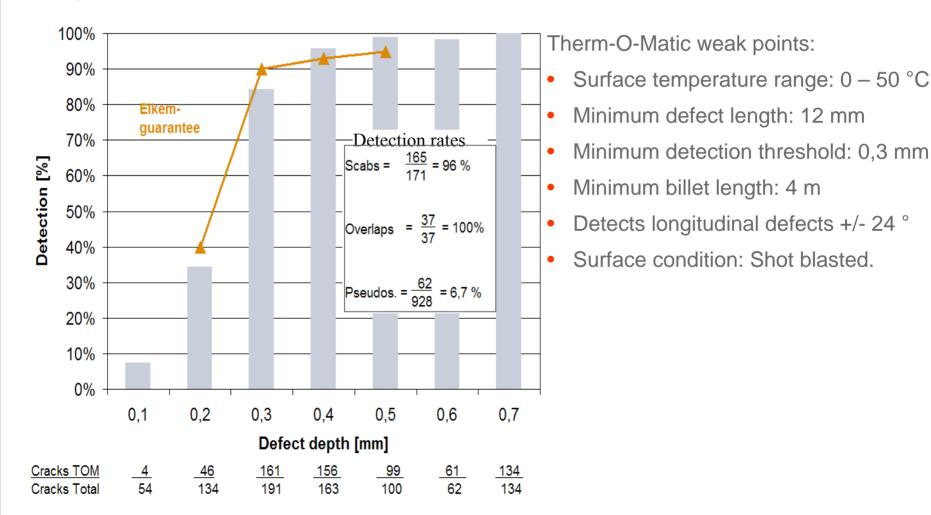
Productivity increase 1982 - 1990





Inspection capabilities

Acceptance Test Therm-O-Matic





T-O-M Detection Thresholds

- Detection thresholds are set according to signals from cracks. Laps and scabs have high detection rate due to the much higher signals received from these types of defects.
- The system operates with several independent adjustable detection thresholds:
 - **T1**: Level 1 Threshold (true to position marking).
 - **T2**: Level 2 Threshold (can be used for marking of deeper defects)
 - **T3**: Corner Threshold (added to T1)
 - **T0**: Threshold lower than T1 (mapping).



Inspection Data

- The new signal processing units can identify each defect with length, position, depth profile and raw IR-data (surface temperature profile) for each billet.
- The information is stored as:
 - <u>Defect Mapping</u>: Defects deeper than T0
 - <u>Defect Marking</u>: Defect deeper than T1
 - <u>Raw IR-data:</u> Each scan is recorded. Represents an image of surface temperature.
- This information is sent to PZR (level 2 computer) when the billet leaves the installation.



Reports

- <u>Billet reports.</u>
 - Inspection results, calculations, status from US and TOM, size measurements and billet numbering/identification are shown on the main control screen and sent to PZR (Level 2 computer) as the billets are inspected.
- Batch reports
 - A summary of the results from billet reports are included in the batch reports.
- Shift reports
 - A summary of the results from batch reports are included in the shift reports
- All reports and inspection data can be printed out locally at any time.



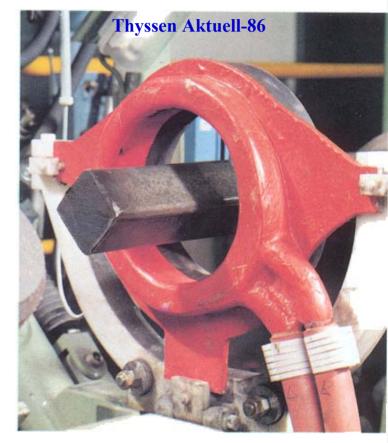
Maintenance assistance

- Process screens
- Tool box for changing machine parameters
- Important process values displayed on process screens
- Test programs to check functions & units
- IO-displays
- Possibility for remote supervision by soft and hardware specialists (IRTech & Scanmatic)
- Annual service and conformity control.



Therm-O-Matic[®] Surface Inspection

- Therm-O-Matic was developed to replace the Elkem Magn-O-Matic (M-O-M) dry MPI system. 15 units sold.
- 21 TOM units sold 1982 1993.
- Elkem sold the NDT dept. including all rights and patents to IRTech in 1995.
- 6 units upgraded with new DSP1998 - 2007
- 2 units delivered to China 2006 2007.





Major changes and upgrades (Ruhrort)

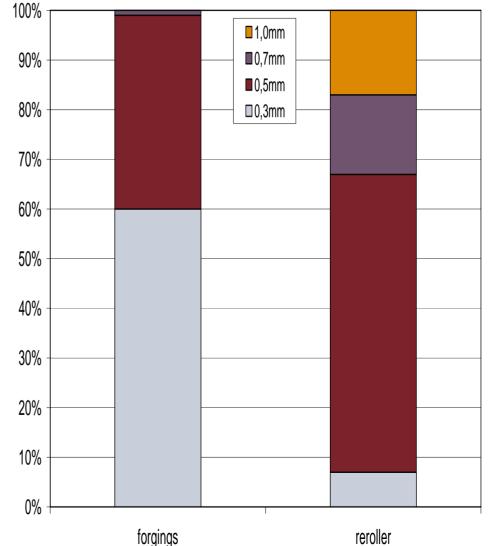
- 1. The system was ordered in Nov. 84 and has been in operation from Jan 86.
- 2. Extended to inspect octagonals (8-kant) in 88
- 3. New marking system (Magnemag) 1995
- Improved signal processing (New CPU) 1996
 Extended reporting of inspection results and inclusion of status from US and size measurement per billet. Connection to PZR (Host computer)
- 5. New signal processing 2005

The new signal processing is based on hard and software developed by IRTech and Scanmatic for signal analyzes and process control. An industrial PC used for system control, data storage, operator to machine communication (SCADA) connects the system to the local network (LAN).



Production & Inspection Figures

- Total Production 1986 2008: 8 Mill tons, 100 000 km (2,5 times around the world!)
- Accurate and linear detection thresholds 0,3 – 1,0 mm
- Hardly any claims (<< 0,1 %)
- High availability
- Only one scanner repair (bearing change)
- Reliable and technically sound inspection operation



Challenges



- Intelligent sorting signal
 - Sorting signal related to defect category and defect length to optimizing repair work and reducing repair costs.
- Improve corner inspection
 - Create and test algorithms to detect short transversal oriented corner defects
- <u>Material tracking</u> system to use the statistical data and the defect viewer as resource to analysing inspection results for upstream control and quality improvement. (T-O-M and US-software are already installed)

New IR-scanner

- IRTech is developing a new IR-scanner based on the same technology and working principle.
 - Assist IRTech in testing the new developed scanner under steel mill conditions.
- <u>Automatic grinding</u> based on map information and material tracking.



Thank you for your attention!!



