NEWS RELEASE

Russel Metals Installs 1/2” Cassette Leveler CTL Line

Winnipeg, MB Canada – Russel Metals has installed a new Braner/Loopco Hydraulic Cassette Leveler/Electronic Servo Feed Cut-to-Length Line at its Winnipeg, MB coil processing and metal distribution facility. The state-of-the-art CTL Line processes a wide range of products and gauges including hot rolled black, pickled, cold rolled bare and coated, aluminum, and stainless steel coils through 1/2” thick.

Russel Metals’ Cassette Leveler CTL Line is capable of processing an extremely wide product and gauge range. Master coils are staged on an Entry 4-Arm, where a floor level Car transports and loads coils onto the Uncoiler. An Entry Coil Flattener straightens and threads the coil into the Entry Shear where the head end is cropped-off and collected in a Power Scrap Cart.

The massive 4-post 1/2” “Plunge” Cassette Leveler employs rows of hydraulic cylinders rather than screw jacks and sliding wedges to position adjustable back-up flights to correct strip shape defects and generate panel-flat strip. Computer controlled linear voltage transducers accurately position each independent cylinder. Adjusting the entry and exit end cylinder elevations causes the work rolls to be “tilted” front-to-back for coil-set and cross-bow correction, and adjusting cylinder elevations from side-to-side achieves “roll-bending” for edge-wave and center-buckle correction. Russel Metals’ Hydraulic Leveler features full automatic set-up based upon gauge and yield strength parameters, automatic set-up via order recall memory, and automatic Leveler calibration accomplished without tools.

Russel Metals’ Cassette Leveler employs three (3) interchangeable Leveler Cassettes to level the full gauge range of carbon steel, aluminum, and stainless coil. An 11-roll x 4-hi Cassette is utilized for leveling heavy-gauge hot rolled coil. A smaller 17-roll x 4-hi Cassette levels thinner gauge non-critical coil, while a third Cassette, a 17-roll x 5-hi Cassette is employed for leveling surface-critical coated carbon steel, aluminum, and stainless coil. A Power Cassette Injector Car exchanges Cassettes in about 2-minutes. A Cassette is automatically coupled to the motor-gear box drive and hydraulically locked in position inside the 4-post Leveler frame after it is installed.

Each Cassette contains work rolls, intermediate rolls, back-up flights, and universal shafts that drive all Cassette work rolls. Maintenance on all the Leveler working and wear parts is accomplished outside the Leveler frame, which makes cleaning and maintaining the Leveler easy and fast. Russel Metals’ Cassettes are “opened” to expose and make easily accessible the work rolls, back-up rolls, and other parts that require periodic maintenance and cleaning. Productivity and operating efficiency is enhanced as maintenance and cleaning is accomplished while the CTL is operating with another Cassette.

Russel Metals’ CTL operates in a “free-loop” Servo Feed mode when processing 1/4” and thinner gauges, and runs in a stop-start mode when processing heavy gauge where a 1,000 PIW coil contains between 500 and 1,000 feet of material. A stable free-loop is maintained during the feed/shear cycle by a non-contact sonic sensor installed halfway along the loop length.

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The Electronic Servo Feed is driven by a high-cyclic rate AC servo motor drive, which feeds and meters strip to precise length tolerances. The Servo-Feed draws the leveled strip from the free-loop and feeds the strip to a pre-determined length through the Hi-Speed cut-off Shear. Part lengths are precisely measured by an electronic encoder, while a microprocessor automatically establishes ideal acceleration/deceleration rates. Part length and batch count are quickly entered into the digital operating system. Servo Feeds compare favorably to "reciprocating hitch feeders" in productivity and reliability. Grabbing, releasing, sliding backwards, and re-grabbing consumes the majority of a reciprocating hitch feeder cycle time. By comparison the Servo Feed runs in one-direction…forward. The Servo-Feed's quick non-reciprocating operation, low acceleration/deceleration, an absence of chains, screws, clamps, slides, and related parts, makes it an outstanding performer with consistent close-tolerance accuracy, low operating cost, and bullet-proof reliability.

Russel Metals' CTL Line is equipped with Braner/Loopco's powerful and reliable Hi-Speed Hydraulic CTL Shear. In order to maximize performance through a wide product and gauge range, the Shear is equipped with pushbutton blade gap adjustment and a pushbutton controlled "variable blade rake". Pushbutton blade gap adjustment allows Russel Metals to quickly and easily establish the ideal blade clearance for shearing carbon steel, stainless, and aluminum in gauges up to 1/2". The variable blade rake control allows adjustment of the Shear blade cutting angle and the stroke, a critical feature necessary for efficiently shearing thin and heavy gauge coil through a wide mechanical property range. Side benefits of the Hydraulic Shear is the absence of noise while shearing, and exceptional reliability

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Straight-sided sheet packs are produced by the Automatic Sheet Stacker that efficiently handles surface-critical coated steel, aluminum, and stainless sheets without surface damage. The Stacker is able to stack sheets onto pallets or runners.

Top-quality panel-flat sheets of 1/2" hot rolled, bare and coated cold rolled carbon steel; plus aluminum and stainless with and without laminated PVC and paper interleaving, assembled into straight-sided packages is the product of Russel Metals' new Cassette Leveler/Servo Feed CTL Line.

Precise tolerance, panel-flat sheets, solid-block packages, outstanding performance, and ***bullet-proof reliability*** made Russel Metals' choice of a new Braner/Loopco Cassette Leveler/Servo Feed Cut-to-Length Line a *"no-brainer".*

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