

AIC receives Final Acceptance Certificate from Chicago Heights Steel after peel bar system upgrade

At the end of 2020, Automazioni Industriali Capitanio (AIC) has been selected for the new peel bar system control at the reheating furnace to Chicago Heights Steel (CHS), Illinois.

The project mainly involved the supply of new automation and drives cabinets with pulpits to be installed at the rolling mill, prior tested in the AIC's workshop, reducing start-up time and costs.

AIC came up with a plan for revamping the entire rolling mill, starting with the head rougher stands where the steel is reduced in size, and going through the takeout of the bar on the cooling beds in the finishing area.

Mr David Zapata, CHS General Supervisor of Engineering and Maintenance, after the first phase, had already acknowledged that "we are very happy so far and are confident that the next phase will go just as smooth".

As proof of these words, on August 25th 2021, CHS has issued the **Final Acceptance Certificate (FAC)** to AIC for this revamping as ensuring full compliance with final product requirements.

The solution provided and designed by our company has guaranteed as main benefits the reduction of downtime, the safety of the work environment and the improvement of lead times for products delivery.

Our customer reports that the new system is reliable, and troubleshooting a problem is much easier now, helping them to find out why problems happened.

Moreover, "the system is scalable: has potentially no limits for future expansion.", said Antonio Ambra, our Business Development Manager at AIC North America.

Thanks to this, Chicago Heights Steel will be pleased to perform another, larger-scope, upgrade project next year, which will include drives, automation and HMI for the material handling at the reheating furnace area.

Our team is proud and grateful to successfully complete this project, doing whatever it takes to get a valuable job done.



Figure 1 – The team (AIC and CHS) during the project.

AIC Automazioni Industriali Capitanio sites:

- Italy (Headquarters, Engineering & Workshops)
- United States of America (Sales & Service)
- India (Sales, Engineering & Service)
- Brazil (Sales, Engineering & Service)

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.

Chicago Heights Steel has a long history of producing quality products for a broad range of industries. It holds the distinction of the largest special-market mill in the United States that rolls billet and rail steel goes back more than 100 years. Inland Steel Company was founded in 1893. Later, the company sold the plant to Keystone Steel and Wire in the late 60's and then Keystone Steel and Wire sold the plant to Chicago Heights Steel in the mid 80's. Since then, Chicago Heights Steel has upgraded the facility and brought together a team of highly skilled employees who smoothly and efficiently produce a diverse line of products that offer outstanding strength, ease of use and durability for years to come.

For more information:

- AIC Group: <http://www.aicnet.it/rassegna-stampa/>
- ATS Mechatronics: <https://www.ats.ud.it>
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/automazioni-industriali-capitanio>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AICnet.it>
- Twitter: https://twitter.com/AIC_solutions
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuHt-UjXoKViAXImXJl3q8Q>

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