

Press release, November 5th, 2019

BILSTEIN GROUP showcases Wide Rolling Concept at BLECHEXPO 2019

Hagen/Stuttgart, November 5th, 2019 – Visitors to stand 10310 in hall 10 at BLECHEXPO 2019, which commences today at the Messe Stuttgart, will have the opportunity to learn first-hand about BILSTEIN GROUP's unique wide-rolling and slitting capabilities at its cutting-edge facility in Hagen-Hohenlimburg, Germany. Ground was broken in September of 2017, and last month the very first customer coil order was processed on the new wide four-high reversing rolling mill.

The facility is one of the most advanced of its type anywhere in the world, with its design allowing for both reverse cold rolling and skin passing (RCM/SPM). Cold rolled strip is produced to BILSTEIN's own extremely high standards, in thicknesses of between 0.2 and 5mm and to widths of up to 1350mm, at speeds of up to 1000m per minute. This means, that for the first time, customers can purchase high-end cold rolled steel up to this extraordinary width from BILSTEIN in Hagen; additionally, they can choose from a wide range of other different order parameters.

The high degree of automation implemented at the facility has opened up many new opportunities in terms of digitalisation. A digital master computer and innovative rolling assistant enable digital management of the rollers and direct data exchange across the entire value chain, while the main control stand gives access to central control for the entire plant and auxiliary processes. The changing of rolls and handling of coils, residual coils and sleeves is also fully automated.

"Through the worldwide unique combination of various patented technologies in a new cold strip mill, we have achieved a quantum leap in the production of premium cold strip engineered by BILSTEIN GROUP," said: Marc T. Oehler, CEO of the BILSTEIN GROUP. "Especially in times when companies in the steel industry and the entire value chain of cold strip production are undergoing significant changes, we are not only securing our

foothold in the market, but also the long-term supply of our customers with top-quality products. We see this as the indispensable basis for our joint success - now and in the future."

In addition, and as part of the new wide rolling concept, a brand new, state-of-the-art slitting and packaging line has also been put into operation. Tasks that have historically been carried out manually have now been automated to a large extent, meaning necessary changes to line settings to facilitate varying specifications, for example, can now be carried out fully automatically. The high-precision rotary shears, with pre-prepared attachments, are now switched in and out with the help of a robot, alongside a fully automated mandrel exchange on the plant's recoiler.

"The automated processes and digitized measurement functions that we have now implemented are designed to meet very precise customer requirements. The highly specialized control system ensures optimum flatness over the entire strip length and width, while the innovative measuring technology guarantees the highest possible quality," said: Michael Ullrich, CTO of the BILSTEIN GROUP. "There is no parameter that we do not carefully monitor – from high-precision measurement of profile thickness and strip tension at the input and output of the rolling mill to active measurement of rolling force and laser systems for speed measurements to high-resolution cylinder position determination."

BILSTEIN GROUP is exhibiting at BLECHEXPO from today, 5th November, to 9th November 2019 at the Messe Stuttgart. Please do visit us at stand 10310, hall 10, or for further information for those not attending the show, please contact oliver.fischer@finnpartners.com.

About the BILSTEIN GROUP – Synergy for Cold Strip

In our group of companies, we combine cold strip expertise and use existing synergies. The satisfaction of our customers determines all our activities. This purposeful commitment makes the BILSTEIN GROUP a strong international partner. The BILSTEIN GROUP includes production facilities BILSTEIN (DE), HUGO VOGELSANG (DE), BILSTEIN CEE (CZ) and BILSTEIN COLD ROLLED STEEL (US).

As a family business, we are committed to fair partnerships with our customers, employees and business contacts. Sustainable – since 1911.

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BILSTEIN quarto reversing cold rolling mill for 1,350 mm
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Marc T. Oehler, CEO
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Michael Ullrich, CTO
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