



PRESSE RELEASE

AUMUND Cooling Conveyor convinces voestalpine

Rheinberg / Germany, July 2020

Four years ago, the Austrian steel concern voestalpine commissioned what was then the largest and most advanced plant for HBI (Hot Briquetted Iron) in the world, in Corpus Christi, Texas, USA, as part of its “Go West” project. AUMUND Fördertechnik GmbH supplied two Flat Plate Conveyors type FPB-K for Cooling. The patented gentle HBI cooling on AUMUND Plate Conveyors contributes significantly to ensuring the high quality of the product.



voestalpine HBI plant in Corpus Christi, Texas, USA, and AUMUND HBI Cooler (photos and illustration AUMUND)

The HBI Evaporation Cooler System ensures cooling of HBI in such a way as to protect the integrity of this valuable product just after it has been produced in the direct reduction and briquetting process. The two Flat Plate Conveyors spray the HBI with water mist and cool it gently from 800 down to 100 degrees Celsius. At a nominal conveying capacity of 141 tph the conveying throughput is up to 285 tph each. Each conveyor has a centre distance of approximately 72 m.

The AUMUND Plate Conveyors have been in continuous operation since 2016 at this location without any problems, despite being subjected to considerable mechanical and process-related pressure. These strains on the equipment, as well as the immense focus on availability, have now resulted in the plant operator, voestalpine Texas LLC, placing a conversion order with AUMUND Fördertechnik to upgrade both conveying lines to an enhanced overall design including modified chain drive.



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The conversion is set to take place in November 2020 and be completed within 30 days. It will focus on the optimisation of the conveyor section design, with improved cleaning, including the chain strand at the drive. The conversion will ensure that the Cooling Conveyors continue to operate without interruption, as they always have. The plant will resume operation before the end of the year.

The voestalpine Corpus Christi plant, which produces 2 million tons per year of high-quality HBI, supplies circa 40 percent of it by ship to the voestalpine AG steel plant in Linz, Austria. The HBI contributes heavily to decarbonisation and reduction of CO₂ emissions. It is batched into the blast furnaces and therefore reduces the dependency on and consumption of sinter and coke. The rest of the production of HBI from Corpus Christi remains in the NAFTA Region (USA, Canada, Mexico).

About the AUMUND Group

The AUMUND Group is active worldwide. The conveying and storage specialists have special expertise at their disposal when dealing with bulk materials. With their high degree of individuality, both its technically sophisticated as well as innovative products have contributed to the AUMUND Group today being a market leader in many areas of conveying and storage technology. The manufacturing companies AUMUND Fördertechnik GmbH (Rheinberg, Germany), SCHADE Lagertechnik GmbH (Gelsenkirchen, Germany), SAMSON Materials Handling Ltd. (Ely, England), as well as AUMUND Group Field Service GmbH and AUMUND Logistic GmbH (Rheinberg, Germany) are consolidated under the umbrella of the AUMUND Group. The global conveying and storage technology business is spearheaded through a total of 19 locations in Asia, Europe, North and South America and a total of five warehouses in Germany, USA, Brazil, Hong Kong and Saudi Arabia.



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