

**press release**

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**Title: Leading-edge continuous casting technology – and a commitment to customer service – secure third Elektrokoppar order for Rautomead**

**Release Date:**

**Continuous casting technology specialists, Rautomead Limited, of Scotland, have supplied a third RS 3000/5/25 upwards-vertical copper rod casting machine to AB Elektrokoppar of Helsingborg, Sweden.**

AB Elektrokoppar placed the order for this latest RS 3000 caster during a visit to Rautomead's Dundee-based offices in November 2007 and the machine was subsequently delivered to Helsingborg in March 2008.

This third RS 3000 casting machine is being used, primarily, to produce silver-bearing copper feedstock rod for the company's well-established Conform™ continuous extrusion process adding to the capacity of the first two machines that were installed in 2001 and 2004 respectively. Final products will be small Cu-Ag rectangular wires and other profile shapes, as used extensively across the global automotive industry and other sectors.

Elektrokoppar have the production capability to manufacture and supply ETP copper rod from the existing cast and roll process as well as CuOF, CuAg and other alloy rods from the Rautomead continuous casting lines.

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### **15,000 tonnes per year production capacity**

Completion of installation & commissioning of the third Rautomead machine, has increased Elektrokoppar's production capacity of Cu-Ag and CuOF wire rod to 15,000 tonnes per year.

The new machine will significantly enhance the flexibility of manufacturing capability, enabling different alloys and rod sizes to be produced simultaneously on each of the three machines. The Rautomead RS 3000 is supplied with automatic cathode feed and alloy dosing system to facilitate the production of copper-silver alloys (0.01% - 0.20%), with minimal operator participation.

### **Product quality**

Before placing the order for their first Rautomead casting machine in 2001, Elektrokoppar, by commissioning Rautomead to make several tonnes of sample coils of rod using the test facilities installed in Dundee, were able confirm that the rod produced through the Rautomead system could be used to make the intended end product and would meet the exacting quality requirements.

### **Graphite-based furnace technology**

Rautomead's RS upwards-vertical casting machines are based on the company's unique graphite-based furnace technology. The company has specialised in this technology for over 30 years. Containment of liquid copper in a graphite crucible contributes to the production of the consistent high quality oxygen-free wire rod and conductor alloy wire rod.

### **Major advantages**

In the case of Elektrokoppar, the introduction of Rautomead's wire rod casting technology provided significant advantages. By producing their own silver-bearing copper rod, Elektrokoppar are able to precisely control product quality from cathode to finished wire. They can also vary rod production output to match fluctuations in customer demand, minimising inventory holding and work in progress.

### **Comprehensive service programme**

Rautomead equipment is both simple to operate and to maintain. Nevertheless, customers must be fully trained and knowledgeable to manage the process efficiently and minimise production costs.

To satisfy this need, Rautomead offers a comprehensive pre- and post-sale customer service programme. In Elektrokoppar's case, for the first machine, this involved: the manufacture of samples for assessment and evaluation; pre-shipment testing of the casting equipment; training of Elektrokoppar engineers at Rautomead in Dundee; installation and commissioning of the casting equipment at Elektrokoppar's Helsingborg factory and regular after sales support visits.

### **Short delivery time**

For the third machine, the equipment parts were all delivered directly to the Elektrokoppar factory in Helsingborg and assembled "on site" under the supervision of Rautomead engineers. This option reduced delivery time by 8 – 10 weeks.

Under normal circumstances, the equipment is first assembled, installed and tested at the Rautomead factory in Dundee before shipment to the customers factory. After delivery, Rautomead Limited sends engineers to the customer's works to check the installation, complete the commissioning, supervise a Performance Test and to continue the training process for the customers engineers. The result is a smooth commissioning programme with customer service staff taking responsibility for the equipment following hand-over and Plant Acceptance.

### **Technical Service support**

A Rautomead customer service engineer visited the new installation approximately six weeks following hand-over to review the status of the plant, answer customer queries, establish clear lines of communication with the production management team, advise on; quality control, component identification, stock holding of consumable materials and usage of spares. Repeat visits are then normally programmed on an annual basis.

### **Supply of spare parts**

Rautomead operates a next-day delivery service for standard spares and consumables. Using air-courier service, components can generally reach customers anywhere in the world within three or four days. Where Customs procedures entail inevitable delays, local stock-holding of parts is normally recommended.

### **Long-term partnerships**

Rautomead works to develop a relationship with each customer into a long-term partnership. The quality of on-going service and support provided by Rautomead Limited is considered of equal importance to the initial delivery of the continuous casting equipment & technology. Rautomead after-sales department are available to provide advice, information, technical service support as well as spare parts and consumable items.

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(Photo caption:)

AB Elektrokoppar order third Rautomead RS 3000 model upwards-vertical copper rod casting machine.

(Standing) Bill Smith & Mervyn Cooper (Rautomead)

(Seated L – R) Brian Allardyce, Guy Henderson (Rautomead)

Bengt Jonasson, Thomas Roslund, Tom Karvonen (Elektrokoppar)  
& Casten Ahlcrona (Knutsson)

