

press release

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Title: Rautomead upwards-vertical casting technology for TRANSKAT, Russia

Release Date:

Rautomead Limited, of Dundee, Scotland, has installed and commissioned an RS 2200/5 upwards-vertical copper rod casting machine at TRANSKAT Joint Stock Company of St Petersburg, Russia.

The machine will be used both for production of oxygen-free copper wire rod and also for production of copper-magnesium alloy rod to make trolley wire. It is configured to produce five strands of rod of 8mm to 28mm diameter, using a feedstock of good quality cathode with appropriate alloying additions.

Oxygen-free copper rod is more ductile than conventional ETP copper and is favoured in applications such as automotive wiring harnesses and robotic arms. It has generally less “noise” than ETP rod and is preferred for high performance audio systems, aircraft headphones and similar specialist applications.

Copper-magnesium combines good electrical conductivity with high tensile strength and is therefore one of the most favoured materials to use as trolley wire in high speed train systems, operating at speeds in excess of 240 km/hour, where the wire must be tensioned to 27-30 kN to avoid static wave formation.

Properties of the alloy are sharply influenced by the proportion of magnesium present and must be controlled to within +/- 0.05%. The totally enclosed design of the Rautomead furnace enables such tight tolerances in a volatile element to be maintained consistently.

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Rautomead engineers have successfully commissioned the machine at the TRANSKAT works in St Petersburg and have trained the customer's workers in the operating and maintenance of the plant.

This new RS 2200/5 machine is the fiftieth upwards-vertical casting machine Rautomead has supplied since entering this field in 1995.

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