

press release

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**Title: Delegates able to draw on Rautomead Cu Mg trolley wire expertise at UIC
HIGHSPEED 2008**

17 – 19 March 2008

RAI Congress Center, Amsterdam

Rautomead Limited will be presenting technology for the continuous casting of copper magnesium trolley wire at UIC HIGHSPEED 2008, the Sixth World Congress & Trade Exhibition on High Speed Rail.

Copper magnesium is rapidly becoming the preferred alloyed copper for high-speed rail applications in many countries, as it provides a combination of good electrical conductivity, high tensile strength and good creep resistance. As well as meeting these physical property requirements, copper magnesium is also an environmentally-benign material with no toxicity hazard.

Although the light and volatile nature of magnesium and its propensity to form slag in the molten state mean that copper magnesium is not an easy alloyed copper to produce, Rautomead graphite furnace technology offers specific advantages for the manufacture of large diameter consistent quality copper magnesium wire rods to the desired production parameters.

Naturally “Oxygen-Free” environment

In the Rautomead process, a graphite melting and casting crucible provides the reducing containment environment for the liquid copper. The unique graphite process eliminates the oxidation problem by providing a naturally reducing "Oxygen-Free" environment in which oxygen present in the copper reacts with the graphite containment system.

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Low-voltage resistance heating

Electric resistance heating enables accurate furnace temperature control without any induced movement or agitation of the melt. It offers sophisticated levels of power and temperature control, is also safe to use and easy to maintain and enables Rautomead to provide the correct parameters for the solidification and casting of copper magnesium alloy.

Upward vertical or horizontal solutions

Rautomead Limited offers two alternative solutions to producers of copper magnesium alloy wire rods: upward-vertical or horizontal type continuous casting equipment. The choice between the two is primarily influenced by the intended production capacity, the upward caster having a larger capacity than the horizontal one.

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