

press release

File name: Raut -PM44-0107.doc
Ref: PM44 (01/07)

Title: PERTH MINT PLACES ORDER FOR FIFTH RAUTOMEAD PRECIOUS METALS CASTING MACHINE

Release Date:

Perth Mint, of Western Australia, has recently placed an order with continuous casting technology specialists, Rautomead Limited, of Scotland, for a new precious metals casting machine for the production of silver coinage strip.

This new machine, which will be the fifth Rautomead continuous casting machine in use at Perth Mint, is a model RMT 200, designed specifically for the production of silver-based alloy strips of up to 100mm x 25mm. Output capacity is 80 -100kg (Ag) per hour.

Graphite crucible technology

The Rautomead casting process is based on the use of a graphite holding crucible, surrounded by electric resistance heating elements to provide the power to melt and hold the metal charge. Heating is by thermal radiation and heat convection. The interior of the machine is protected in an inert gas atmosphere to protect the hot-working graphite components.

Robust, reliable and safe to operate

Though many features of the Rautomead process, especially the withdrawal mechanisms and controls, have been developed and refined over the years, the basic furnace design remains as it was originally designed, over twenty years ago. These machines have proved robust, reliable and safe to operate. Many of the early machines are still in daily use today.

Rautomead Limited
Continuous Casting Technology
PO Box 100
Dundee DD1 9QY
Scotland

t: (44) 1382 622341
f: (44) 1382 622941

sales@rautomead.com
www.rautomead.com

Oxygen-reducing

Silver has a strong propensity to attract oxygen in the molten state. The totally enclosed nature of the Rautomead process, where the molten metal is in contact only with the pure carbon surfaces of the holding crucible and casting die, is a particularly suitable process for casting silver and eliminating any residual oxygen present. An additional feature is the still metal bath created by the external resistance heating elements, thus avoiding the turbulence associated with many induction heating systems in close proximity to the casting die.

Natural choice

Rautomead has supplied 150 continuous casting machines for processing of gold and silver alloys for coinage strip, jewellery, electronics and dental alloy applications around the world. The special features of these machines are conducive to production of the highest quality, blemish-free silver strip and make Rautomead the natural choice for mints around the world.

Ends...

For more press information, contact:

Rautomead Limited,

PO Box 100

Dundee

DD1 9QY

Tel: + 44 (0) 1382 622 341

Fax: + 44 (0) 1382 622 941

E-mail: sales@rautomead.com

Web: www.rautomead.com

(Photo caption)

The Rautomead RMT 200 horizontal continuous casting machine