Baoshan Iron & Steel Co. (Baosteel) is the largest iron and steel group in China. The steel producer specializes in high-tech and high-value-added steel products. They are a main Chinese steel supplier to various industries including automobile, household appliances, container, oil and natural gas exploration and pressure vessel plate. Baosteel exports its products to over forty countries and regions including Japan, South Korea and countries in Europe and North America.

Designed for an annual capacity of 100,000 tons, the new plant will produce pickled wire coil in diameters from 5 to 20mm and rod in coil from 14 to 40mm. Primary steel grades to include 300 and 400 series austenitic, ferritic and martensitic stainless steels along with free-machining and modified special steel grades. With a plant capacity of 100,000 tons, the new wire coil pickling line is one of the world’s largest capacity lines for stainless steel.

CMI was contracted to supply engineering, equipment and commissioning for a new batch pickling plant incorporating special design features for production of stainless steel wire rod and bar. The scope included a complete Automatic Vibration Wire Coil Pickling Plant with closed loop monorail, molten salt bath with reducing technology, closed tunnel air treatment systems, acid filtration unit, chemical storage tank farm and PLC driven operating control system. Coil handling automation equipment includes loading conveyors, coil transfer cars, coil turntable, inspection stations, weigh scale and coil compactor. The new facilities are located in Shanghai, China and were successfully commissioned in July 2009.

“This plant produced high quality coils from the very first batch treated. The vibration coil treatment system is a proven technology and combined with the excellent design and installation of this plant, we have a first class facility here at Baosteel” says Mr. Wynn H. Keams, Senior Sales Manager, CMI Chemline, and adds “the time of commissioning was less than planned. This fact is due to our decision to use 3D engineering software which has allowed our designers to view the plant in real projection view, avoiding design errors.”

The Norcross ViscSense System now incorporates the ViSmart viscosity sensor. Utilizing Acoustic Wave Technology, this viscosity sensor is a solid-state, high-reliability, and precision device that provides sensitive, real time, in-line viscosity measurement and temperature monitoring capability. The industrial grade sensor has a wide operating range that is unaffected by shock, orientation, or flow conditions.

Adding SenGenuity’s sensor to the Norcross “falling piston” line of viscometers affords potential customers further options to address their viscosity control needs. The ViscSense viscosity control system, including the ViSmart sensor, provides a robust viscosity and temperature sensor and user-friendly Human-Machine Interface which simplifies and improves process control. It is suited for inks, coatings, lubricants and oils and so versatile it can be used in applications ranging from flexographic and gravure printing, to spray coating, to power generation and other viscosity sensitive processes. Coupled with Norcross Corporations ViscSense intrinsically safe barrier, the sensor can operate safely in hazardous, explosive rated environments.

“We are constantly making innovations with our acoustic wave sensor technology for a range of new applications to meet customer demand, and our working relationship with Norcross Corporation will allow us to introduce our ViSmart sensor into fields such as the flexographic and rotogravure printing fields,” says Thomas Cunneen, Vice President and General Manager, SenGenuity. “We are extremely excited to introduce this to our extensive customer and expanding OEM base.”

“SenGenuity’s ViSmart viscosity sensor has greatly enhanced the overall value proposition of our offering. With SenGenuity’s and Norcross’s powerful business relationship, the Norcross ViscSense System can find new applications in the coatings and inks arena, a core focus area for Norcross,” says Bob Norcross, president. “We are excited about adopting this new and cutting edge sensor technology and expect it will yield very positive outcomes for our customers and for Norcross.”

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