

CASE HISTORY

Foundry Industry

December 2002

The CRYONOMIC® dry ice cleaning system has provided a fast, environmentally friendly and cost effective method of cleaning moulds for Belgium based HASSAL, a leading aluminium foundry. The technologically advanced CRYONOMIC® system has not only reduced the cleaning time of each of the moulds by 480% but, as wire brushes are no longer used, has substantially increased the life expectancy of the moulds and helped improve the quality of the cast products.

Situated in Flanders, Belgium, HASSAL produces a range of aluminium products for pan-European companies such as Siemens, General Electric, Hansen Transmission as well as guttering and housings for smaller companies. The company operates 9 smelt ovens with an overall capacity of 450kg and uses a range of dies weighing from 200 grams to 40kg.

Prior to HASSAL purchasing the CRYONOMIC® dry ice cleaning system, the weekly cleaning of the moulds had to be carried out using iron brushes. This was not only very labour intensive, but was such an unpopular task that the company was experiencing a significant turnover of staff. As the iron brushes eroded the metal moulds, they had to be frequently replaced and as this form of cleaning left a residue, the final product was not always a hundred percent perfect.

Following trials at the factory, HASSAL found that it had reduced the cleaning time from 8 hours to just 10 minutes. In addition, as the CRYONOMIC® system uses CO₂ pellets, there is no longer any erosion of the moulds during cleaning and since the dry ice method returns the mould to their original shiny and clean state, the final product is faultless.

HASSAL has also found a further use for the CRYONOMIC® dry ice cleaning system. The degassing filters used within the process had to be thrown away every week, as they could not be cleaned. The CRYONOMIC® system is now cleaning these filters so that they can be reused, which is providing the company with substantial savings.

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