

Automated Quality Tool Generates \$300,000+ in Direct Savings - On One Grinder, in One Year

Background: *Mills suffer substantial losses in production because roll shops lack advanced grinding monitoring systems that can identify roll grind defects. This problem was the focus of a recent study conducted by a major steel manufacturer. Now, monitoring technology developed in partnership with roll shop and mill personnel has resolved this issue, improving production by 7%, and generating first-year cash savings of more than \$300,000 – on a single grinder.*

SAN DIEGO, CA- July 18, 2012: Alta Solutions, Inc., a world leader in vibration and manufacturing quality control systems, has announced the commercial availability of the AS-240 *GrinderMon™* roll grinder quality monitoring system. This fully automated system provides complete grinding process feedback and documentation to mill operators and managers on a real-time basis. Co-developed with roll shop and mill personnel, this advanced new monitoring technology enables roll shops to eliminate roll grind defects, avoid regrinds, and realize dramatic performance improvements.

A recent study by a major steel manufacturer showed that visual inspection and other traditional roll grinding quality assurance techniques cannot adequately detect roll grind defects that diminish mill performance. Following the installation of AS-240 *GrinderMon™*, unscheduled backup roll (BUR) changes were eliminated, and speed reductions were avoided, thus improving production by 7%. These productivity improvements generated a direct cash savings of over \$300,000 during the first 12 months of operation on a single grinder.

This study highlights the value of monitoring the roll grinding process using an AS-240 *GrinderMon™* and how roll quality improvements translate directly into productivity improvements and cost savings. Because work rolls touch the surface of every product that passes through a mill, any pattern or lead line on the roll surface is transferred onto the strip surface. Roll grinder chatter can lead to both 3rd and 5th octave mill chatter, increasing mill downtime and increasing product cost. The AS-240 *GrinderMon™* has proven to dramatically reduce mill chatter, minimizing the frequency of back-up roll replacements, and reducing occurrences of short-cycle gage variation.

The AS-240 *GrinderMon™* system provides real-time feedback that allows operators and managers to control the roll grinding process. Alarm limits can be set to control the acceptable vibration values during different parts of the grinding cycle. The system interfaces with the grinder controls to acquire roll and operating parameters. Grinding process data is automatically saved by roll ID and a summary page can be printed for quality control documentation.

Alta Solutions, Inc., a San Diego, California corporation, develops and markets innovative dynamic analysis solutions for a variety of manufacturing processes. Alta Solutions offers a complete family of signal processing products to test, measure, and analyze a wide range of critical machinery, including equipment for monitoring mill stands, supporting machinery, and critical equipment throughout a mill.

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