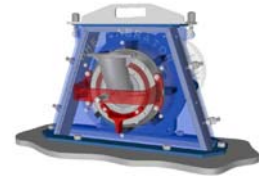


## Customer

### solutions

Industry / Application: Specialty Metals  
 Success: **Improved Cleaning Rate & Cycle Time**  
 Company: Wah Chang  
 Location: Albany, Oregon  
 Date: December 2005



Wah Chang Albany, Ore., a division of ATI, is a world class manufacturer of specialty products used in energy production, chemical and mineral processing, aerospace, medical, research and consumer products. Wah Chang's continuous improvement of its production lines created another opportunity for Wheelabrator to work with them on a new Wheelabrator® Skew Roll machine that would be used to remove die lube residue and any heat treat scale from an extruded rod or seamless tube. The Wheelabrator Skew Roll machine replaced a slower, maintenance intensive automatic air blast system. Wheelabrator Western Regional Manager Kevin Poling and Ron Barrier, test lab manager along with our Distributor, Blast Cleaning Services of Oregon worked with Wah Chang to meet the specific requirements for this new production process.

The process is as follows: When a tube or rod comes out of the extrusion press, it goes through a straightening machine if needed. Then it is loaded at 90-degrees onto the completely enclosed skew roll machine. It enters through a side door into the full length vestibule to help retain all shot media inside the machine. A single 13-1/2" diameter eight bladed AutoBlast® wheel with TargetLok® control cage cleans the heat scale off the extrusion exterior in the blast chamber. The extrusion then exits into a completely enclosed vestibule. The vestibule door opens and lifting arms transfer the extrusion onto a tipper. If the part is a hollow tube, it is raised to a 40-degree angle to drain out shot before it is moved onto the transfer conveyor for the next process. If the part is a rod it transfers directly to the next process. This system is fully automated, and Wheelabrator integrated the machine system into the new process line. The average cleaning cycle time for an extrusion is just 4 minutes. Dave Kephart, ATI Wah Chang, states, "The Wheelabrator skew roll machine has performed very well with very little maintenance."

Wah Chang Albany, Ore., a division of ATI, is a world class manufacturer of specialty metals and chemicals used in energy production, chemical and mineral processing, aerospace, medical, research and consumer products. Wah Chang recently worked with Wheelabrator to find a creative solution to a production problem. The company's two 10-year-old air billet cleaning blast machines utilizing nonferrous media, were very slow. In fact, because, of machine downtime and slow cycle times, Wah Chang was forced to manually unload its automated production line and forklift transport the billets to another production area for blasting by hand.

Wheelabrator Western Regional Manager Kevin Poling worked with Wah Chang to meet their specific requirements. Ron Barrier, test lab manager at Wheelabrator, conducted blast tests on Wah Chang's billet to establish cleaning rates and cycle times at our LaGrange GA. test facility. This allowed Wheelabrator to design a machine to satisfy Wah Chang's billet cleaning needs.

One of the most crucial requirements was to create a machine with material handling that could be integrated into the company's completely automated production line with the existing load/unload robot. Additionally, the machine had to be faster and more maintenance free than its predecessor. Dave Kephart, ATI Wah Chang, states, "Wheelabrator replaced two machines with one machine, which paid for itself within a very short period of time. Additionally, they did an excellent job of integrating the machine with our existing automation."

The Wheelabrator® Horizontal Roll Spinner with internal blow off lance now serves as Wah Chang's billet blaster. The machine is able to blast solid billets and those with a hollow center. The machine has two 13-1/2" eight bladed Autoblast wheels which operate at 20 hp.

Wheelabrator products are protected by patents issued and pending in the United States and other countries.

Wheelabrator reserves the right to change the specifications referred to in this literature at any time, without prior notice.

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