Wheelabrator Group
1606 Executive Drive
LaGrange, GA 30240

Customer solutions

Industry / Application:	Heat Treating
Success:	**Improved Cycle times & Reduced Maintenance**
Company:	Carolina Heat Treating (CCHT)
Location:	Fountain Inn, South Carolina
Contacts:	Joey Moore, Maintenance Manager
Date:	January 2006

Since opening in 1968, Carolina Commercial Heat Treating (CCHT) has been a major presence in the heat treating market in the Southeastern U.S. The Fountain Inn, S.C., division was the first of five CCHT plants that eventually became the largest heat treating organization in the Southeast and the 5th largest in the country. CCHT recently utilized Wheelabrator® expertise and technology to speed up the cycle time on a 1950s 36 x 42 Tumblast® machine at its Fountain Inn, S.C., facility.

As an ISO certified facility, CCHT had specific criteria for the new wheel. Joey Moore, Maintenance Manager, states, "We needed to find a creative way to speed up the machine and run more parts through it. Additionally, we wanted to reduce the amount of time spent on wheel maintenance."

By removing the old wheel and installing a new EZEFIT™ blast wheel, CCHT was able to reduce cycle time, increase production and decrease maintenance frequency and cost. Tim Daniels, Sales Representative for Wheelabrator, states, "When CCHT first contacted us, they were running 17 – 20 minute cycles. Now with the EZEFIT wheel installed, they have five minute cycle times and can run 1/2 tub of parts at a time instead of 1/3 tub. This equates to a 75-percent increase in production."

The Tumblast machine runs two shifts a day, six days a week. The direct drive EZEFIT wheel eliminates V-Belt Drive maintenance issues and the one piece cast manganese housing reduces the number of liners required to protect the housing. CCHT says they can justify the cost of the wheel due to the maintenance savings provided by these features, as well as its superior performance.

CCHT bought the 1950s Tumblast approximately four years ago. A work-horse of a machine, the 55 year old machine gained a new lease on life with the new wheel.

CCHT's Fountain Inn location has numerous furnaces and a large menu of services and processes. Specializing in all things metallurgical to the manufacturing sector, CCHT primarily serves the automotive and aerospace industries. Through CCHT's IS 21 partnership program, they can provide manufacturers with services at the manufacturer's facility.

Due to the versatile design, EZEFIT wheels can be installed on most other manufacturer's wheelblast equipment. These new wheels are currently installed on a number of machines including: Tumblast® equipment, table equipment, spinner hangers, monorails and railcar cleaners as well as all new Wheelabrator equipment.

EZEFIT wheels offer the inherent advantage of bi-directional rotation and can lower replacement parts inventory through the ability to serve clockwise or counterclockwise wheel applications with a single style wheel. Wheelabrator has capitalized on this advantage with a direct-drive design that offers standard or custom base mounting for increased versatility. EZEFIT wheels are available in 3-1/2" or 2-1/2" blade widths. 3600 RPM and 1800 RPM versions are offered in a variety of wheel diameters.

TARGETLOK®, now a standard feature on all EZEFIT wheels insures consistent blast pattern targeting no matter how many time the tune-up kits are changed. TARGET-TRAK™, a new product that allows the remote control of blast pattern targeting from the control panel, provides the ability to adjust the blast wheel targeting for more efficient blast performance.

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