MoistScan® online moisture analyser helps improve coke manufacturing

A major global steel manufacturer in central Asia recently engaged online moisture analysis specialist RTI in regard to improving the productivity of their coke plant by accurately controlling the moisture in the coal feeding their stamp charged batteries.

This was achieved by installing a MoistScan® MA-500 online microwave moisture analyser on a 1600mm belt conveyor immediately downstream of a set of water sprays and feed-back controlling valve aperture based on the moisture data thereby regulating the addition of water to the coal feed.

A spokesman for the company said "the level of moisture in the coal-binder mix is important and significant productivity gains are achievable. If the mix is too dry the coal particles will not bind properly. If it is too high the resident batch time in the coke ovens has to be increased resulting in significant loss in productivity" MoistScan® was selected as the preferred option after considering a range of competing technologies. Favouring the MoistScan® was its particularly strong record in the coal industry and the company's positive experience with the MoistScan® technology in several of their other plants. Features of the analyser that makes it particularly well-suited to this application include its high level of accuracy, ease of integration with the plant DCS, rugged construction, and the practical calibration service provided by RTI.

MoistScan® online moisture analysers work by transmitting a low energy microwave signal through the material as it is being conveyed. By measuring the variation in a number of properties of the microwave signal the percentage moisture is accurately determined in real time.

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