



Sandvik's express delivery program for heat exchanger tubes provides the perfect solution for a petrochemical plant

It is the case that should never occur: But late in 2014 the technicians of an Egyptian Propane Dehydrogenation plant had to face the truth. Several heat exchangers had failed unexpectedly and caused a production shut-down.

Fast action was needed. In close cooperation Sandvik and the licensor developed a solution. The result: Within just ten weeks, Sandvik delivered 12 tons of super-duplex tubes (Sandvik SAF 2507) and proved the effectiveness of its express delivery program for duplex steels.

Besides major precautions when operating a plant unexpected material failures cannot be ruled out completely. The consequences can extend from part to full shut-downs, causing production losses of potentially immense costs. In these situations, a strong and reliable partner is important.

In the case of the Egyptian plant, Sandvik was able to make a difference in regard of its extensive expertise in producing and testing seamless stainless steel tubes, its high delivery flexibility and its long-term and trusting relationship with the licensor.

During a visit by the licensor to Sandvik's tube mill in Werther, Germany, Sandvik demonstrated the production of seamless stainless tubes, the destructive and non-destructive testing methods reassuring the customer of its high levels of professionalism.

In this particular case Sandvik's high delivery flexibility made the crucial difference. Within just ten weeks Sandvik manufactured and delivered the super-duplex tubes (Sandvik SAF 2507), which were all to a non-standard dimension, in accordance to the customer's specification and with 3.2 inspections in several partial deliveries.

Sandvik SAF 2507 (EN 1.4410) is a high-alloyed stainless duplex steel specifically developed for operation in highly corrosive environments. Its austenitic-ferritic microstructure is carefully balanced (50:50) and guarantees high corrosion resistance with a Pitting Resistance Equivalent number of min. 42.5.

Sandvik's express delivery program for duplex steels was launched in 2013. Its concept is to deliver duplex (Sandvik SAF 2205) and super-duplex (Sandvik SAF 2507) heat exchanger tubes within 6 to 8 weeks according to customer specification.

"The close cooperation between Sandvik and the licensor as well as the availability of pre-material and the production flexibility were the key success factors of this project," explained Christoph Bradter, Key Account Manager at Sandvik.

For further information, contact Sandvik sales office in Düsseldorf, Germany, +49 211 50 27 342 or email tubesales-de.smt@sandvik.com.

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