

MANUFACTURING

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ABB INSTALLS RECORD-BREAKING EFD INDUCTION SYSTEM FOR SHORT-CIRCUIT RING BRAZING



Power generation and distribution giant ABB recently installed the largest single-shot shortcircuit ring brazing system yet developed by EFD Induction. The system, which was installed at the ABB plant in Vittuone outside Milan, Italy, can braze rings with a diameter up to 1,500 mm.

“This system is a milestone,” says Alessandro Mariani of EFD Induction Italy. “Our previous record for a one-shot short-circuit ring brazing system was 1,200 mm, so the system developed for ABB represents quite an increase. And of course, to be selected by such a demanding customer as ABB is always encouraging.”

The system comprises customized coils, an EFD Induction Sinac 250/320 power source, and a mounting table. The system’s first project was to braze a 1,500 mm diameter shortcircuit ring for a wind tunnel motor. “The end user,” says Mariani, “is one of the world’s most famous sports car manufacturers, which further testifies to our ability to meet

the most stringent quality demands.”

According to Stefano Chierigato of ABB, he and his colleagues examined proposals from six companies before opting for the EFD Induction solution. “There were several reasons behind our choice of EFD Induction for this critical piece of equipment. First, their proposal made technical and economic sense. Second, the company has deep expertise in the field. And third, ABB in Italy has had positive experiences with EFD Induction heating solutions for other applications.”

EFD Induction is one of the world’s leading suppliers of induction-based short-circuit ring brazing systems. “That’s right,” says Mariani. “We have even devised a specialized induction coil that equalizes the temperature around the ring. This coil minimizes energy input into laminations, thereby protecting the shaft from heat and preserving the ring’s integrity.”

HEADLINES

TPI Buys out JV Interest in Turkey

TPI Composites has announced that it has acquired the remaining twenty-five percent interest in its joint venture wind blade operation in Izmir, Turkey.

TPI launched the business in 2012 with a local partner ALKE İNŞAAT and has grown the operation into the largest wind blade manufacturer in the region.

TPI has invested more than \$35M to fully capitalize the Turkey operation, including a complete upgrade to its 355,000 square-foot building.

“We are very pleased to have signed long-term agreements for our initial capacity in Turkey with leading customers in the region,” said Steve Lockard, president & CEO of TPI Composites. “It is a great thrill to see our world-class operation take shape and ramp to its full capacity.”

Williams Form Engineering and MMFX align for high-strength, corrosion-resistant products

Northstar Endeavors, LLC and Alphatec Nordeste Complete License Rights Agreement to Manufacture Towers

Northstar Endeavors, LLC, dba Northstar Wind and Alphatec Nordeste, announced the completion of a Patent & Know-How License Rights Agreement, whereas Northstar

grants Alphatec the exclusive license to Northstar’s intellectual property, within the territory of Brazil, to design, manufacture, construct, and sell towers using the IP.

Northstar has developed a line of modular tower solutions for MW wind turbines using its patent and patent pending technology.

The Northstar Modular Tower (NMT) design provides the wind industry a cost-effective solution to build taller towers for larger turbines.

As stated by Jeff Willis, president of Northstar, “This agreement launches our global initiative of licensing our technology for our modular tower solution. We could not be more excited about teaming up with Alphatec and their team to help them to become a major tower supplier in the Brazilian market.” He goes on to say, “This agreement opens up further opportunities for turbine manufacturers and developers to take advantage of the NMT benefits.”

Alphatec will be expanding on its energy related businesses by developing its WT³ series wind towers utilizing the Northstar patented technology for 80-140m towers. Alphatec is building a dedicated manufacturing facility for the towers and tower components that is scheduled to come online in 2016.

PRODUCT

Free web tool facilitates cable transit design and installation

Roxtec recently announced the release of its Roxtec Transit Designer 2.0—a free, web-based tool that simplifies both product selection according to needs and requirements and the process of designing, purchasing, and installing cable and pipe transits.

Giuseppe Principato is an instrument designer in Italy and one of thousands of designers and engineers in more than 80 countries who have already discovered the benefits of the new design software. He works with tasks such as developing material requisitions for bulk materials as well as with preparing cable routing, cable entries, wiring, installation details, and job specifications.

“I use the Roxtec Transit Designer every time a multi-cable transit is accepted or requested by our customer,” he said. “It is easy to use and understand, and it helps me save time. You can customize cable transits and easily change the arrangement of the transit whenever you need.”

Simple enough that designers just enter cable schedule, sealing requirements, and installation preferences—the tool generates documents such as bill of materials and CAD drawings. They can share their work with project teams anywhere in the world. And the chat function offers them instant access to the Roxtec expertise.

To start using the Roxtec Transit Designer, designers and engineers are invited to register at <https://transitdesigner.roxtec.com/us/start>.

