

INTERVIEW

Mr. YanJun Huang, Member of the Board of Directors, IT Department, Shougang QianGang
Interviewer: Mr. Ben Wang of Leader Control, Inc. (Beijing)

Q: Can you please tell us your experiences with your latest quality assurance project?

Mr. YanJun Huang: "On June 22nd exactly as planned the QES went online. After a very short time of only 3 month implementation the QES from QuinLogic was connected to our entire data environment.

The system is very powerful and we are step by step learning what else we exactly can implement into the system. QES is installed at our casters and the hot mill and is an integrated part of an overall Quality system, which was implemented recently. The upcoming month are reserved for fine tuning the functionality and get the maximum use out of the system."

Q: Did the QES fulfill your expectations?

Mr. YanJun Huang: "Yes, it absolutely meets our requirements. Especially the rule building with Logic Designer exceeds the expectations. Many people got now new ideas what else can be solved just by using this rules and therefore extensions of rule sets are on the way."

Q: How was the new quality assurance process accepted by the QA team?

Mr. YanJun Huang: "At the beginning of the project the QA team was involved together with IT to define the QA rules. They are very satisfied with the performance of the SlabMonitor and the QualityMonitor in casting and hot mill.

Now also other users and management are very interested to work with the quality parameters and rules. Therefore an extension of the system to up to 10 users per line is foreseen. The users will be extended to production management, team leaders and directors.

We also plan to involve sales to use the quality certificates to collect feedback from automotive customers about their specific needs. As a consequence the criteria we are focusing on will be very much end customer driven. Nevertheless we are also taking our internal responsibility very serious to supply coils from hot mill to cold mill is also following the same principle to apply the specifications in rules which are fitting to the needs of the cold mill. With this integrated quality perspective we will go even beyond our original intention. "

Q: Can you tell us more about the implementation phase?

Mr. YanJun Huang: “We have experience with many suppliers during our last projects and we definitely can say that the engineers from QuinLogic were very highly qualified and hard working. We are very happy with the fast and smooth implementation. This is surprising because we had several projects going on at the same time which made the work overall not very easy.

We are hoping that the support will continue in the same quality because we have so many new ideas we want to implement and which is only possible with good cooperation with the supplier”

Q: Do you have plans to extend the QES system?

Mr. YanJun Huang: “Yes, we are just in the start up of our second caster and hot mill. As soon as we have a stable production, we will install the QES to this line as well. We think it will take place in last quarter of this year.

We are also interested to implement more modules for process analyses tools like DataDiagnose as soon as we have finished our fine tuning of QES“

Q: Do you see that the Shougang quality assurance system will have impact to other mills in China?

Mr. YanJun Huang: “Shougang welcomes visitors from many mills every month. It is very likely that other Chinese mills will also install QES if our success gets known to them. Anyhow our board of directors has plans to extend the QES system step by step to all Shougang mills. This should be also a motivation for QuinLogic to continue to deliver good support also in future to keep our mill as a number one reference. We are really counting on our good cooperation and believe that we have done the right choice with our quality assurance system. “

Thank you very much for your time and interesting comments.

About Shougang

Shougang mill Qiangang is located northeast of Beijing. It has casters and hot mills as main production lines. Majority of hot rolled product is delivered to Shougang ShunYi cold rolling mill.

Shougang Corporation is among the top producers of flat products in China. Shougang Group is the parent of Shenzhen-listed Shougang Iron and Steel, China's sixth largest steel maker.

About QuinLogic

The Aachen-based company was established in 2008 with the objective to make large volumes of complex measuring data useful for quality management tasks in the steel and aluminum industry, enabling decisive improvements in productivity. The company's team of engineers has more than twelve years of experience in the field of surface quality and yield optimization.

Quinlogic cooperates with VDEh-Betriebsforschungsinstitut in Düsseldorf in the fields of data mining and defect diagnosis. It has developed software for rule-based decision-making, which – based on data from most different sources – guarantees optimal use of material.

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