

## New ACS 800 for ABB Electromagnetic Stirrer for Ladle Furnaces means good savings for Ovako Bar Oy Ab



ABB's electromagnetic stirrer for its ladle furnace, LF-EMS, was installed at Ovako Bar Oy Ab in Imatra in southeast Finland in 1988. Production was smooth until 2005 when the old YOQD drive for the stirrer came to the end of its life cycle with three unexpected failures. The old YOQD frequency converter needed to be replaced with ABB's modern ACS 800 drive due to life cycle considerations.

### Summary

The old drive seemed to be at the end of its life cycle simply because it is difficult to get necessary spare parts. What is more, it would no longer be economical to keep it in use since the old YOQD was an analogue drive, which means adjustments are difficult to make.

"The main reason for this investment was to keep production without any interruption because all production in Ovako Imatra goes through this stirrer. All failures in the old drives would reduce or stop production if the stirrer was not in operation", says Jukka Kyllönen, manager of electrical maintenance at Ovako Imatra.

### ABB's delivery

Dismounting the old drive and installing the new ACS 800 posed a great challenge. The transport route for the new equipment to the electrical room was narrow and long, and height was limited. As a result, the new drive had to be transported in parts.

The new ACS 800 was commissioned in 2006. Thanks to a good relationship and good cooperation between ABB and Ovako Imatra, the overall installation went very successfully and start-up was on schedule.

### Benefits

"This case shows that Ovako Imatra does not need to buy new stirrer. Replacing the old drive with a modern one for the existing stirrer means good savings for us", says Jukka Kyllönen.

Space savings and easy access to spare parts are two main advantages from a maintenance point of view according to Ari Hirvonen, electrical maintenance engineer at Ovako Imatra.

"Since the start-up of the ACS 800 drive, no breakdowns have been recorded", concludes Ari Hirvonen.

### Cooperation

The project was jointly executed by ABB Center of Excellence in Sweden and ABB Service in Finland. The seamless cooperation within ABB paved the way for the extremely good cooperation between ABB and Ovako Imatra.

"We are very satisfied with the good cooperation between Ovako Imatra and ABB on this project, and we expect the same for the entire life cycle of the equipment", says Jukka Kyllönen.

“Replacing the old drive with a modern one for the existing stirrer means good savings for us”, says Jukka Kyllönen, manager of electrical maintenance at Ovako Imatra, Finland.



## Customer

Ovako produces long specialty steel products, with a focus on demanding product segments. About 1 million tonnes of low alloy steels and carbon steels are supplied in the form of bars, tubes and rings every year to the automotive and transport equipment and general engineering industries, mainly in the Nordic countries and Europe.

Ovako Bar Oy Ab is located in Imatra in southeast Finland, a mere 7 km from the Russian border. Ovako Bar Oy Ab is included in the Ovako Bar Division that comprises 50% of the company's total sales.

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