

# Tomorrow Technology boost production at Profilglass

The last edition of Aluminium Times carried a special supplement commemorating the 25th anniversary of Profilglass, a major Italian manufacturer of continuously-cast strip. This feature shows the contribution made by Tomorrow Technology



A 32-tonne-capacity aluminium-coil transport vehicle recently acquired by Profilglass

TT Tomorrow Technology SpA is a manufacturing company based in Padua, Italy. The organisation specialises in the design and manufacture of vehicles and equipment for the metallurgical industries. It primarily pursues this business by offering a wide range of innovative and efficient solutions to metal manufacturers' problems. The company, located in Due Carrare (PD), in the North Eastern industrial area of Italy, has focussed its studies on the melting process and subsidiary activities. In doing so, it has thoroughly analysed the needs of both primary and secondary foundries.

The overall picture emerging from these studies is very complex. It reveals that producers with a very similar melting capacity often obtain very different results in terms of production and output. These depend on the location of the foundry or casthouse, the layout of the plant, the experience of the staff, and the use of subsidiary equipment. Tomorrow Technology develops each of these elements and many others specific to a client's plant. The findings are used in drawing up a project specification, the main goal of which is to allow the client to use its own plant to its very fullest capacity, at the lowest possible cost.

The marketing model is based on the following main principles, characterised by constant evolution and innovation:

- Multi-functional charging and dedrossing vehicles, available in five different sizes.
- Radio-controlled and/or automatic systems for skimming, cleaning and mixing metal in aluminium furnaces.
- The provision of aluminium dross presses to maximise recovery of aluminium from hot aluminium dross.
- A liquid metal transport vehicle, complete with a discharging device, capable of transporting large quantities of molten metal within the confines of the casthouse.
- The availability of a special truck with a 50 cu m trailer, designed to handle and transfer a substantial quantity of solid scrap throughout the area of the casthouse.

- A special truck, characterised by the ability to handle and move up to five aluminium coils inside the area of the casthouse.

- Automatic equipment for feeding aluminium ingots into the induction furnace.

The company has developed a forward policy designed to enhance customer loyalty as a result of the provision of structured after-sales services and comprehensive training programmes for customers' drivers, enabling them to operate and maintain equipment and vehicles at peak performance.

Tomorrow Technology's around-the-clock service support covers start-up, commissioning, emergency repair and on-call support, all designed to support maximum up-time and protect the customers' operations. The preventative maintenance programme is designed to maximise vehicle life and that of the equipment, thus reducing unplanned expenditure and the deterioration of the plant.

The added value of Tomorrow Technology's products and solutions results from the company's ability to identify with their customers' aspirations. They not only offer a customised product, but they anticipate future production needs. Production efficiency



This special truck with a capacity of 50 m<sup>3</sup> was supplied to Profilglass to transport and handle large quantities of aluminium scrap in the client's stockyard

is complemented by a timely after-sales service, carried out by qualified technicians, supported in turn by an external team of experts.

The company's strategy has led to partnerships with some of the most important primary and secondary aluminium companies operating today. These clients account for the largest share of the Italian market, as typified by Profilglass, and a large proportion of the European sector.

The complete vehicle and special equipment projects provided by Tomorrow Technology are designed to drastically reduce the manpower necessary to operate both furnaces and casthouses. This eliminates many of the tasks at the front of the melting and holding units, as well as those involved in the treatment of aluminium dross and the handling of aluminium semis.



In this illustration, one of the T.T. vehicles is being employed in charging one of Profilglass's holding furnaces

## Advantages

The use of special vehicles designed and built by Tomorrow Technology offers a wide range of advantages, including:

- A reduction of 5 to 10% in operational costs.
- Damage to furnaces and other casthouse equipment reduced by 15 to 25%.
- Amelioration of operators' working conditions in respect to visibility, ease of operation and ergonomic comfort.
- A high level of safety in the case of both operator and vehicle, as a result of improved working conditions, typified by protective measures, including the guarding of a cab's tempered safety-glass by a metal grid.
- Precise control of operations, assisted by plc systems.

The very versatile features of the company's vehicles and equipment are greatly appreciated by customers such as Profilglass, especially as no special knowledge is required to operate the machines.

In the case of Profilglass, many technical aspects relating to the vehicles and equipment were studied, discussed and defined in close cooperation between the client's management and the T.T. Tomorrow Technology team.

## Reader Reply No. 69



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