

# Schwank Case Study: Product Protection, Innovation is our Passion



*“The heating system, that Schwank designed, has worked extremely well. The proof of this is we have not lost any coils since the system was installed”.*

Steve Gurner,  
Tata Steel Manager



## The Facility

Established in 1907, Tata Steel is among the top ten global steel companies with an annual crude steel capacity of over 28 million tons per annum. It is now one of the world's most geographically diversified steel producers, with operations in 26 countries and a commercial presence in over 50 countries.

The Tata Steel Group, with a turnover of US\$ 22.8 billion in the FY 2010, has over 80 000 employees across five continents and is a Fortune 500 company. Tata Steel's vision is to be the world's steel industry benchmark through the excellence of its people, its innovative approach and overall conduct. Underpinning this vision is a performance culture committed to aspiration targets, safety and social responsibility, continuous improvement, openness and transparency.

Tata Steel's larger production facilities include those in India, the UK, the Netherlands, China, Canada and Australia.

## The Issue

Schwank has worked with the various Tata Steel sites in the UK for a long time. The type of buildings that house the manufacturing processes Tata Steel are carrying out are generally very large and extremely difficult to heat.

Normally Schwank is creating comfortable conditions within buildings for people, but with this project it was the product that was of concern to Tata Steel. The vast building in South Wales is where steel coils are stored prior to being used in production. With each coil being worth a considerable sum of money, protecting this stock is of paramount importance. In previous years coils had been lost due to rusting/corrosion caused by condensation due to normal humidity.

Schwank was asked to create an environment that was not only temperature controlled, but also humidity controlled to ensure this situation was eliminated.

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## The Implementation

Schwank designed a heating system covering a section of the coil storage area that incorporated almost 150 high efficiency 2-stage luminous heaters. The heaters are connected via Schwank's ThermoControl Plus M controllers that control both the temperature and humidity in the building.

The 2-stage heaters are controlled in multiple heating zones giving great flexibility within the building and also very high radiant efficiencies that, coupled with the 2-stage operation, result in much lower energy costs.

The installation was carried out by a Tata Steel approved contractor, who was advised by Schwank throughout the whole process resulting in a first class heating system installation.

## Results

The results - financial, operational and environmental - of installing the high efficiency Schwank gas fired radiant heating systems have all been excellent and positive.

The system has achieved its primary aim in the first year as no steel coils have been lost since installation. Not only that, but Tata Steel is delighted with the excellent working conditions within the heated areas. The heating is almost instant. It does not have to be set to come on as early and during the unusually low temperatures of recent years the design temperatures were easily maintained within the working areas. The system will be serviced and maintained annually to keep the heaters working at their optimum which will ultimately prolong their working life.



**Schwank**  
INNOVATIVE HEATING SOLUTIONS



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