



CI Logistics

CI Logistics helps Heatrae Sadia out of hot water

Heatrae Sadia, established over 75 years ago, is the UK's largest manufacturer of electric water heating products. As part of a recent major plant modernisation, at its Norwich base, the company invested in an automated forming, welding and piercing process line for the production of stainless steel cylinders.

The system, which operates on a 60 second cycle, produces cylinders of varying lengths dependant on a computerised production schedule. At the discharge station of this automated process, the cylinders are ejected onto an unload station preceding transfer to the next production stage.

This phase of the process revealed a major limitation. The close proximity of the discharge station to a main gangway (approximately 2m), together with a restrictive headroom availability, governed by the operational height requirements of fork lift truck traffic, put restraints on the transferring of the cylinders across the gangway to the next process. Heatrae Sadia invited C I Logistics to investigate an economical solution to the problem.

After studying several alternatives, C I Logistics decided to use an electrified monorail system with elevator units at load and unload end of the monorail. The carrying media between the elevator stations is a single powered trolley unit which travels to and from, taking its power source from the electrified rail.

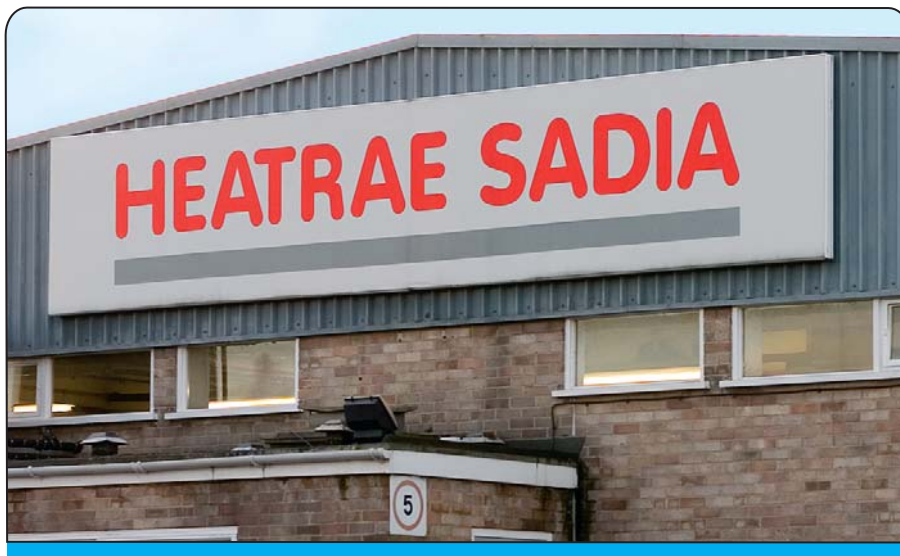
The carrier mounted below the powered trolley unit is of a calliper type, designed to embrace the cylinder in a horizontal plane. The loading elevator is constructed so that in its lowest position the load-carrying beam sits below, and is able to pass through the process unload station. When the monorail system receives a station occupied signal from the process line, the elevator rises to its ultimate height presenting the cylinder in a position for collection by the powered trolley unit, waiting in position prior to the load elevator.

To effect the transfer, the trolley unit moves so the carrier embraces the cylinder on the load beam, at which point the elevator lowers to leave the cylinder engaged in the carrier. From this point the powered trolley unit reverses direction to transport the cylinder to the unload station. A similar cycle of events takes place at the unload end of the system, transferring the cylinder to the next production stage.

The sequence of movements for all elements of the operation is coordinated for maximum effectiveness which ensures the transfer operation is completed well within the process plant cycle of 60 seconds.

A spokesman for Heatrae Sadia said "We are delighted with the solution from C I Logistics. The implementation of the electrified monorail allows for an efficient, automated transferral of product, in a space restricted area and has helped to overcome our previous production problems".

To obtain further information regarding CI Logistics' products and services, check our website at www.conveyors.co.uk, or telephone us on + 44 (0) 116 274 3772 or email sales@conveyors.co.uk



43 Wenlock Way
Troon Industrial Area
Leicester LE4 9HU
Tel: +44 (0)116 2761691
Fax: +44 (0)116 2769836
sales@conveyors.co.uk
www.conveyors.co.uk