

Schwank Case Study: Heating under the toughest conditions



„We know Schwank as being absolutely reliable. Whether it's the heating performance or the service that is backing it up, have impressed us for the last 40 years.“

Willi Friedrich,
Director-Maintenance Services,
Bosch-Rexroth AG



The Facility

Today, Bosch-Rexroth is well-known for its leading-edge drives and control technologies. Rexroth's expertise extends to all the technologies used in electric drives and motion control including mechanical, hydraulic, pneumatic, and electronics.

Drive and control solutions from Rexroth fill jam jars and ensure that the daily newspaper goes to print. A large number of cars, agricultural equipment, motors, gearboxes, and automotive components are manufactured using Rexroth technology. The majority of windmills are fitted with Rexroth transmission boxes, and today, 80% of construction excavators and bulldozers are built using Rexroth components.

With the acquisition of the Steinschen iron foundry in 1850, Rexroth became a global corporation. Today, Rexroth Gus is the world leader in industrial and mobile hydraulics operating one of the most advanced foundries in Europe. For the last 40 years, Schwank's luminous heaters have provided heat to the Rexroth foundry, offering comfort to ten departments covering an 82,668 square foot area.

The Job

Whether new or old, foundries are known to have unusual air and temperature conditions. While casting furnaces irradiate extreme heat, blowers extract large air volumes, or about 17,657 ft³/min per department.

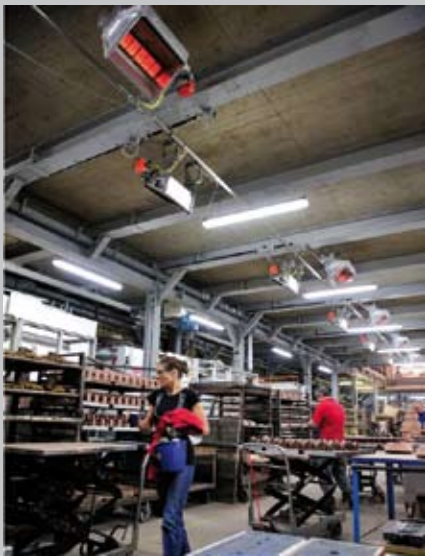
In addition, the building structure consists predominantly of uninsulated walls, single pane glass and very high ceilings.

The casting and finishing production areas are exposed to metal dust. Whether tool, machine or heating equipment, dust sits everywhere, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Non-stop operations amid heat, dust, and air infiltration: A heating system operates here under the hardest conditions imaginable.

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Implementation

In 1970, Rexroth looked for a heating system that could withstand extreme conditions while delivering safe and reliable heat to the employees. In addition, Rexroth required a superior heating system that was efficient, economical, and easy to maintain.

Schwank luminous heaters were well-known in the metal processing industry. Corporations such as Arcelor Mittal, Thyssen Krupp, Salzgitter, and Corus have trusted Schwank for decades.

At that time, 42 Schwank luminous heaters were installed. However, as production capacity increased, so did the need for additional heating equipment. Today, 125 luminous heaters still in operation date back to the 1970's. Four decades of continuous operation under extreme conditions of dirt and dust, are irrefutable proof that Schwank luminous heaters can operate under extreme conditions.

Results

Luminous heaters are among the most efficient and robust heaters used in industrial environments. With minimum maintenance, Schwank heaters can provide reliable heat for decades, without any loss of function or efficiency. Simply put, Schwank luminous heaters are impervious to dust, dirt, and the demands of continuous operations.

Over the years, tube heaters were introduced as an alternative to luminous heaters, for Rexroth however, no other heating equipment comes even close to the performance and energy efficiency of supraSchwank.

Moreover, Rexroth decision to allow Schwank to service the equipment all these years has definitely paid off.

Willi Friedrich, maintenance manager at Bosch Rexroth: „I am not aware of any other heating system capable of operating reliably and efficiently for over forty years in these conditions. We could not be happier.



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INNOVATIVE HEATING SOLUTIONS



United Kingdom

Schwank Ltd
62 Sunningdale Road
Sutton, Surrey SM1 2JS

Tel. +44 (0) 208 641 3900
Fax +44 (0) 208 641 2594
sales@schwank.co.uk
www.schwank.co.uk

Ireland

Eurogas Ltd
Unit 38B, Southern Cross
Bus Pk, Boghall Road,
Bray, Co Wicklow

Tel. +353 1 286 8244
Fax +353 1 286 1729
info@eurogas.ie
www.eurogas.ie

New Zealand

Energy Products Int.
30 Gallagher Drive,
Frankton, Hamilton

Tel. +64 7 839 2705
Fax +64 7 834 4212
sales@energy-products.co.nz
www.energy-products.co.nz

Australia

Norwest Gas Pty Ltd
c/o Schwank Ltd
62 Sunningdale Road
Sutton, Surrey SM1 2JS

Tel. +44 (0) 208 641 3900
Fax +44 (0) 208 641 2594
sales@schwank.co.uk
www.schwank.co.uk