

Upgrade of an old ALTEK dross press for Sapa Extrusions

This short presentation shows how ALTEK-MDY set about converting an old ALTEK dross press to a much more recent version, the model 701-S series, on behalf of Sapa Extrusions in the USA.

Feature



Rebuilt dross press showing the automatic safety shield door



The ALTEK-MDY organization, based in Pennsylvania, USA, recently completed a project for Sapa Extrusions to upgrade and convert an old ALTEK 500-D dross press to the specification of its popular model 701-S series. The system was originally supplied by ALTEK International back in 1997 and since then has been operating in several different casthouses within the USA. After completing an initial site survey, ALTEK-MDY determined that while operational, the dross press capacity and configuration was not ideal for the current facility. Sapa also requested the addition of some of the features that are now standard on all new ALTEK machines.

The major upgrade features include:

Replacement of dross press head: The old-style press head has been replaced with the latest version of the popular 701 series. The improved design significantly reduces the potential of sticking and greatly increases compression and sealing of the dross skull. This, in turn, increases the aluminium recovered at the secondary processor and thus the return on investment.

Automatic sequencing: The original dross press was manually operated and required the operator to dismount from the forklift to close the press doors and manually initiate the pressing sequence. The new version is fully automated and thus requires no operator interaction. Once the pan is placed in the machine, the control system automatically detects that the skim pan is in the correct position and automatically lowers the safety shield door and initiates the pressing cycle. Once complete, the door is automatically raised and the system informs the operator that the cycle is complete.

Improved structure: The new dross presses supplied by ALTEK are significantly more robust than the early models supplied in the 1990's. Additional structural steel has been added to both the side walls and floor to improve structural integrity of the system.

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Internal view of the press showing the patented ribbed 701 head