

Increased capacity and more flexible welding

Kvaerner Kamfab AB in Karlstad, Sweden, is a wholly owned subsidiary of Kvaerner Pulping AB, and supplies the cellulose industry all over the world with technically sophisticated products which boil, wash and bleach wood chips to produce pulp.

The continuing expansion of the pulp industry, particularly in Asia and South America, has led to demand for Kvaerner Kamfab's two niche products, pressure diffusers – cylindrical vessels that clean the lye in the pulp, and the extremely popular Compact Press – a washing press that squeezes liquid out of the pulp and adds new washing fluid.

To secure future production, Kvaerner Kamfab conducted an extensive analysis of its operations. The plant was reorganised to improve the production flow and the company also invested in a fully automatic drum welding station for the rollers to the washing presses.

In addition, three columns and booms were converted one after the other. Two of them are large models for the internal and external welding of pressure diffusers. The third is a smaller model which is primarily used to weld components for the Compact Press.



Among other things, the upgrade has involved switching from single to twin wire, thereby improving the deposition rate. In addition, a new flux system has been installed and the continuous supply reduces stoppages caused by the necessity of filling up with flux. The new welding equipment has also created conditions for more reliable production with less downtime.

The conversion of the columns and booms has shown an improvement in capacity of no less than 40 per cent.

The modernisation of the smaller column and boom, has resulted it being used for welding more applications than before.

This is an extremely important improvement for Kvaerner Kamfab, not least as it is now equipped to handle large orders for its growth product – diffusers.