

S. Norton issues statement of intent with major shredder purchase

A sophisticated 5000 HP shredder plant offering on-line processing and separation of waste products and non-ferrous metals has been installed by S. Norton & Co. Ltd at its completely re-developed Bankfield Mill site in Liverpool, U.K. Investment in the shredder plant, as well as in new scrap handling equipment and a modern headquarters, emphasises the company's intention to become an even more high-profile player in both the domestic and export markets.

By Ian Martin

Installation of the 5000 HP Metsos Lindemann Power Zerdirator began last year with full start-up taking place during this summer.



Already a leading force in the U.K. scrap industry, S. Norton & Co. Ltd has underlined its long-term commitment to metal recycling and exporting with a multi-million pound investment at its site adjacent to South Canada Dock to the north of Liverpool. The development programme is centred on the company's Bankfield Mill site and has included the installation of a powerful new shredder plant and construction of a brand new company headquarters.

Installation of the 5000 HP Metsos Lindemann Power Zerdirator began last year with full start-up taking place during the late summer of 2002.

A key aim of the investment programme, according to Managing Director John Norton, has been to centralise company activities around its increasingly busy export hub at South Canada Dock. Indeed, the company has planning permission to construct a conveyor 'bridge' over the road separating Bankfield Mill from the deep-water dock facility in order to save on lorry movements and transport costs. The conveyor is expected to be in place before the end of this year.

Nortons has operated a 3000 HP Newell shredder at South Canada Dock ever since taking over the site from Dalmeijer Metals in the early 1990s. However, when it came to upgrading this major piece of processing equipment, the decision was taken to site the new shredder at Bankfield Mill so as to release valuable quay space at the dock itself. The management team also opted to buy a larger shredder so as to boost output in line with rapidly-growing export demand for the quality low-residual material currently being produced at South Canada Dock. 'The new machine will double our shredding capacity at Liverpool,' confirms Mr Norton. 'It is timed to coincide with an expected further increase in demand for quality recycled products in our export markets.'

Shallow and deep water customers

Nortons has facilities at both South Canada Dock and nearby West Canada Dock, each of which has the capability to load 60 000 tonne DWCC vessels. The company conducts regular shallow water business with fellow EU countries, principally Spain,

while deep water export customers include Turkey, India, South East Asia, Korea, the U.S. and South America, as well as the rapidly emerging Chinese market. Focusing on China in particular, Mr Norton points to 'huge' growth in demand from this market within the last couple of years, despite the high level of bureaucracy and state control.

Formed in 1985 from what was previously a partnership, Nortons sources its supplies by road, rail and sea from all parts of the U.K. The company started out by operating solely shallow water facilities until, in 1988, it acquired the deep water West Canada Dock facility on the Mersey Docks & Harbour Board estate. For several years, end product was directed in an equal split into the domestic and export markets.

Despite its location in the industrial heartland of north-west England, there are no major steelworks within close proximity of the company's scrap processing operations and so the sales focus has fallen increasingly on export business. Today, overseas shipments account for an estimated 70% of total company sales. 'We are a globalised company with offices in various countries,' asserts Mr Norton, 'and are predominantly a producer of high-quality scrap. The product from the new shredder will meet global customers' ever-increasing demands on quality.'

Shredder is a U.K. first

Although the shredder manufacturer has previously sold 2.5 metre diameter machines into the U.K., the one installed at Nortons is the first to boast the Power Zerdirator geometry. According to Chris Tressler, General Manager for Metsos Lindemann equipment in the U.K., the combination of this new, optimised geometry with enlarged infeed opening and heavier hammers means that this 5000 HP model will deliver the same output as an old-design 2.5 metre shredder of 6000 HP.

Mr Tressler hails the German-built shredder plant as 'one of the most sophisticated' currently available by virtue of its on-line processing and separation of waste products and non-ferrous metals. There are two separators plus a trommel on the waste line as well as a trommel and three separators on the non-ferrous line - one of 1.5 metres and

the other two of 1 metre. Both lines are equipped with by-pass facilities to help minimise downtime.

The shredder feedstock, ferrous, non-ferrous and waste lines follow a 'North, South, East and West' design, explains Norton's technical director Matt Norton, so as to allow maximum clearance space at the end of each line.

The shredder's 'highly advanced' dust extraction system ensures emissions are kept to within 15 milligrams per cubic metre. In terms of health and safety, meanwhile, the fire extinguisher system fitted as standard to the mill has been extended to the outgoing conveyor and to the cyclones. The shredder is also fitted with one of Metsos Lindemann's latest plant control systems, which is designed to monitor the plant and feed back to the office important operational information, including details of production, wear analysis and bearing temperatures. A modern link with the manufacturer in Germany also facilitates fault diagnosis and thereby has the potential to reduce downtime, according to Mr Tressler.

On-line treatment bonus

Already employing a Lindemann 2000 HP shredder at its Trafford Park yard in Manchester to handle more localised material, Nortons regards the latest Power Zerdirator as 'the most up to date shredder in either Europe or America because it provides for on-line treatment of waste and non-ferrous metals'. According to Matt Norton, his company has opted for a dry system with in-built fire extinguishing system 'because we feel it gives better separation and a better end product'.

Around 23m of additional scrap handling equipment is due to arrive at Nortons by the end of this year to help cope with the increased tonnage going



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Overseas shipments account for an estimated 70% of Norton's sales. The company exports to EU countries, principally Spain, while deep water export customers include Turkey, India, South East Asia, Korea, the U.S., South America and China.



Norton's new headquarters provides key personnel with an excellent view of the company's operations - the South Canada Dock, weighbridge and baler area and the new shredder.