

Is Revamping the Solution to Be at the Forefront of Innovation?

Giuseppe Manara

Antares Srl, San Martino Buon Albergo (VR), Italy ✉ info@antaresitaly.net

The owners of a coating plant often manage, after a few years of use, to become familiar with its productive mechanisms, getting to know its strengths, flaws and limitations, as well as its positive and negative properties. However, over the years, the production needs of the market or of the company itself may change for several reasons: consequently, the plant will need minor changes or additions to meet the new requirements.

Those who have owned a coating system for many years know the importance of the care, maintenance and cleaning of its working environment, particularly near the machine, where the operators perform their duties. That is why, with the passage of time, their users achieve a particular affinity with these machines, to the point that they feel the need to maintain them up-to-date with new production and energy saving technologies, instead of replacing them. In fact, an old plant can still be at the forefront of innovation thanks to simple strategies, expedients or added components.

Faced with all these needs arising during the life cycle of a coating system, often a company does not know who to trust and may try the “do-it-yourself” approach, or even rely on a partner that could only pretend to be an expert, ending up causing a lot of damage. With its engineers, Antares responds to all these issues with knowledge, expertise and field experience thanks to many years of activity in the sector.

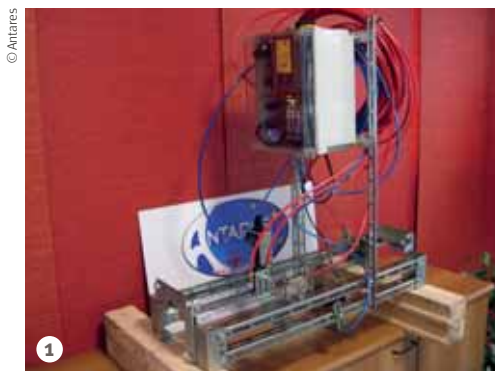


Figure 1: The lubricator installed by Antares.

Here below, you will find a few examples of technical interventions that Antares has performed.

Powder coating plant

It was a very outdated powder coating plant for contracting operations, with a Morris chain

conveyor system. The customer needed to solve a big quality problem on its painted parts, but also to improve the lubrication of the chain and of the conveyor bearings because they consumed a lot of oil. Following an inspection and a counselling session, Antares found that the defects detected by the customer on the painted parts were caused by the obsolete lubrication system originally fitted with the plant. Despite constant adjustments, this spray lubricator left traces and oil drops that irreparably damaged the surface of the end products.

Antares installed a modern and effective lubricator (**Fig. 1**) adapting it to the Morris-type monorail. Thanks to individually adjustable micro air pumps, it delivers on the chain only the strictly necessary oil for the lubrication of joints and bearings, thus avoiding soiling of the workpieces and wastage.

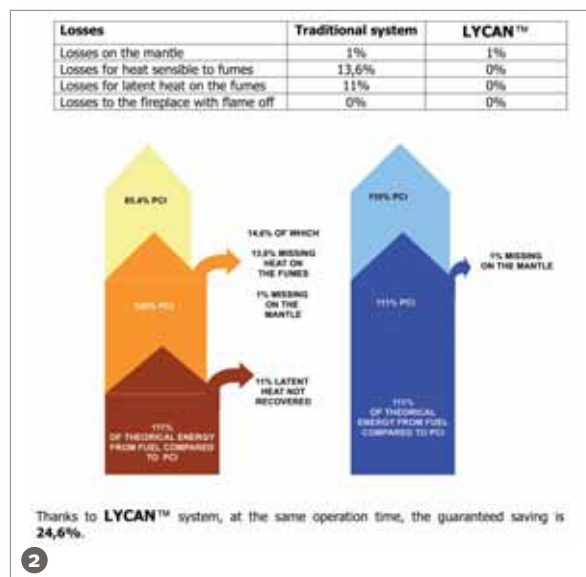


Figure 2: The advantages of the “LYCAN” heat exchange system, manufactured by Antares.

Coating system for aluminium profiles

A few years ago, the owner of one of the first coating plants for aluminium profiles, built in the ‘80s but still fully functional, productive and innovative, contacted Antares after hearing of a revolutionary system that the company had been offering for a short time and that would have enabled it to achieve energy savings in the drying and curing ovens. This system was becoming increasingly popular in Northern Europe, where energy savings and eco-friendliness are traditionally salient issues.

The customer informed Antares that it wished to take action on these critical problems. The company answered explaining all the economic and environmental advantages of this new heat exchange system called “LYCAN” (Fig. 2). Back then, Antares had not installed any plant with this revolutionary burner, yet, but it managed to convince the client by proving the validity of its solution with theoretical calculations and examples of interventions performed on other types of systems.

The installation, carried out on one of the two ovens of the plant, was challenging. However, in 2016, five years after the implementation of the first burner, the customer contacted Antares to revamp also the second oven with the “LYCAN” heat exchange system, which has proved an effective device to keep a plant up-to-date.

Suction and filtration units with a dust leak issue

Antares’ engineers intervened to resolve a dust leak problem on the air suction and filtration units downstream of the paint spray booths of a plant, which was due to a maintenance operation for the replacement of filters performed by a third party. The customer contacted the company after buying its filters but having relied on a neighbouring firm for their installation. It reported a continuous leak of dust from the exhaust of the suction units. After several phone

calls and e-mails to understand the problem and seek a solution, Antares decided to intervene

on site and solve the issue by disassembling and reassembling the filters (Fig. 3), also proving the technical preparation and experience of its engineers.

Automatic unloading of components from a coating plant

The owner of a coating plant for aluminium profiles needed to produce batches of very short bars. It asked Antares to find a solution to unload them automatically from the system. After analysing the problem together with the customer, Antares installed an auxiliary unloading device that works in synchrony with the main one enabling to arrange horizontally even the shortest bars (Fig. 4).

Conclusion

It is not always necessary to own the latest equipment available on the market in order to be at the forefront of innovation. Thanks to companies and partners like Antares, one can often find the right solution while preserving the already existing plants and continuing to be competitive.

The maintenance, care and replacement of worn parts keeps your system “young and energetic”.

Antares is the right partner for you: it provides support,

components and services for all that concerns the components of finishing equipment. ○



Figure 3: Air filtration units.



Figure 4: Solution for the automatic unloading of short bars.

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MASKLOGIK SP. z o.o.
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