

William Rowland receives key approvals for metal turnings cleaning process

WILLIAMROWLAND

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During Q2 2020 WR announced installation of a metal turnings processing plant aimed at recycling clean vacuum quality turnings back into the superalloy supply chain. Following commissioning throughout much of 2020 we are pleased to share the progress made in the time that has elapsed.

Approval success

There is no greater endorsement than that of your customers, many of which are addressing high integrity segments such as aerospace and medical. WR can now confirm we have received approval for our cleaning process from 4 leading vacuum melting producers spanning two continents. Some of these companies operate vacuum technology in other sister locations too so now the challenge presented is to expand the approvals to those sites.

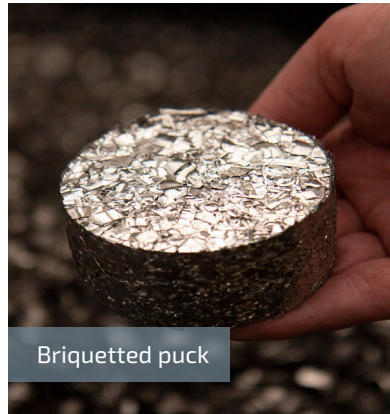
The process

Whilst the start of the process includes crushing and stream sampling the cleaning processing parameters of the plant have matured over the last year to a point where very strong yields of over 97% are being achieved routinely. This improvement has been welcomed by a number of customers due to the high value of the metal involved, which has escalated further during 2021. Beyond yield and where the cut of turnings allows several customers are also benefitting from further densification of the product through briquetting of turnings into small 'puck' like shapes, (picture, top left). The briquetting process improves drum density, reduces handling and speeds up charging of the furnace for our customers.

The onsite laboratory also installed during 2020, offers gas analysis and full major, minor and trace chemistry that provides 'piece of mind' for our customers and ensures WR can control the internal process parameters. The laboratory is in the advanced stages of preparation for UKAS approval with the aim of securing this late in the year, which will provide another layer of integrity for our customers.

We continue to work on several 'closed loop' projects to recycle metal turnings from machine shops back to the melt source creating a circular economy through reduction of waste and pollution, which also offers a significant cost saving for melting mixes.

For toll customers in the UK WR offer a collection and drop off service enabled by operation of it's own small fleet of vehicles upto 10 t in weight which again has proven to be beneficial following external transport availability issues post covid.



Briquetted puck



Laboratory



Project team

European customers

WR remain wholly committed to our European customers and continue to offer the service of turnings cleaning on a toll basis despite the challenges presented by Brexit. This has been enabled by WR receiving inward processing relief (IPR) authorisation from UK HMRC which is a process that allows us to continue to transact without duty and VAT implications. The current European customer base have therefore continued to benefit from this service during 2021 (post Brexit).

For those customers working with us today we thank you for your business throughout a difficult period for the industry. For those companies looking to liberate the value of their turnings waste then we encourage you to make contact, WR is able to offer to toll process or buy your turnings waste from you to recycle back into the supply chain, critical at a time when metals are in short supply and expensive.