UPCAST Review

Upcast Oy is the leading supplier of upward continuous casting technology for a wide range of non-ferrous applications.

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Head of R&D, Upcast Oy:

Our Pilot plant ensures quality and development

Through our clients we conquer the world

Our partner, Sarkuysan, delivers copper wire to suppliers of NASA.

PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK

Editorial

Improving – continuously.

When writing this we are living very interesting times in the global economy as we can read in the U-turn article. Finland has a new government and among other EU countries is looking into the future with some hesitations, but with a strong will. High expectations are in the air: we need solutions for bringing the economy back on track again.

Upcast Oy gets practically 100% of their sales from outside the domestic market, which we do not always think about in our everyday life, but it is certainly something to be proud of. The actions of the government and authorities naturally build the conditions for business, but the success at the end depends fully on the global companies themselves. Therefore for years our company's strategy has been based specifically on strong R&D work and on customer support service, and we trust those two continue to be important pillars for our growth.

Our mission says: Upcast Oy improves its customer's profitability by providing tailored, high-quality continuous upwards casting processes and trusted customer service for non-ferrous metals industries globally.

We do not wish to be merely an equipment supplier, but a partner who helps their customers achieve the lowest total lifecycle costs among upwards continuous casting processes. We want to be the trusted "one stop shop" for all customer needs.

In this review you may read about our latest development processes and how they have been of support to our customers' production processes.

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What's up

Lady made of copper

COPPER CULTURE
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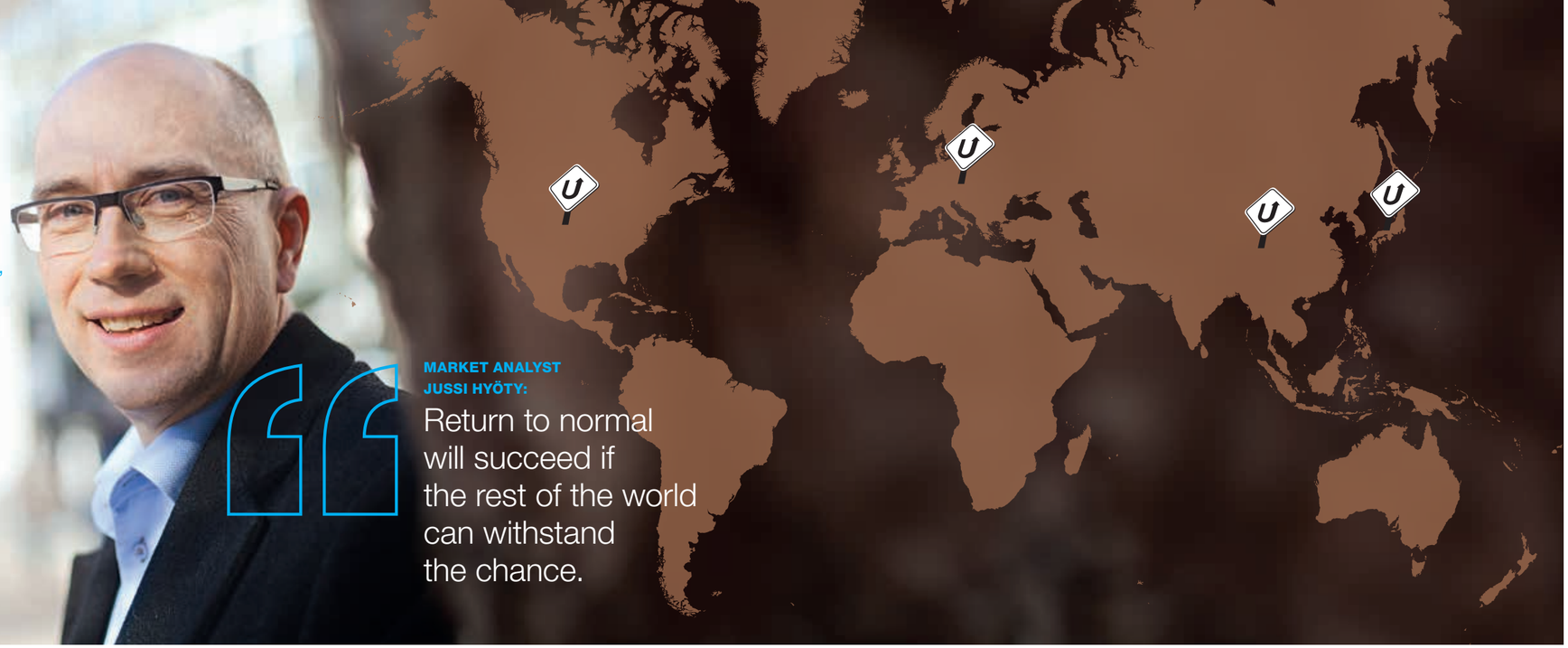


The global economy is progressing at an exceptionally uneven rate this year. The dollar seems to be strengthening, which is putting considerable stress on China and the developing markets. It is not all doom and gloom, however. The economy is turning towards more sustainable development.

• **TEXT:** JUUSO ENALA • **PHOTO:** ELITE

MARKET ANALYST JUSSI HYÖTY:

Return to normal will succeed if the rest of the world can withstand the chance.

U-turn in the global economy

Central banks around the world have opened the liquidity floodgates to kick-start growth. The recovery does not seem to have taken hold in the real economy, but is seen in the interest rates, stocks and currency markets. By weakening a currency, growth and inflation is transferred from one place to another, but only weak new growth has been achieved. The positive effects of the falling oil price have been seen in Europe and developing markets as growth in consumer purchasing power. At the same time, the strengthening of the dollar has affected virtually everything. The US economy is growing, but this time its momentum is not enough to pull other markets that are suffering from structural problems along with it. Against this background, respected market analyst **Jussi Hyöty** sees four major positive megatrends.

Growth in the United States

The US has succeeded in getting its economy to grow. Inevitably, strong growth is linked to expectations of the end of the seven-year era of ultra-light monetary policy. Tightening monetary policy will strengthen the dollar and ultimately lead to a rise in long-term interest rates. A return to normality will succeed if economies in the rest of the world – particularly emerging economies – can withstand the tightening of monetary policy and the growth in asset values is sustainable.

– The salaries in the US, however, have not increased with the same ratio as the growth in the business in general, and there are some signs of inflation to be seen, Hyöty comments.

Turn in Europe

The original problem in Europe is the growing gap of competitiveness within the common currency zone, which has led to the problem of national debt for those states. When nations cut costs to reduce their debt risk and companies cut costs to regain their competitive edge, the deflationary risks will increase. To solve these problems and stimulate the economy, the European Central Bank is using a model of quantitative easing to the tune of a gigantic trillion euros. – Europe has been forced to counterbalance the asymmetry of their economy escalating already for decades, but it is a time-consuming process, Hyöty explains.

End to growth built on debt in China

China's political leadership knows very well that the investment-driven growth built on debt has come to an end, and the consumption needs to grow. Even the former prime minister of China, Mr. Wen, said that the economic model was no longer working. A reform to rebalance the situation is inevitable. The investment model has led to a chronic overcapacity of production and a fall in producer prices. There is enough capacity in China to satisfy both the export markets and domestic demand. China's slowing economic growth of 6–7% a year may seem substantial, but in relation to the real corporate interest rate of 8–10%, the rate of growth may not be enough.

– Growth in China will have to be based on the improved purchasing power of households. If the growth of domestic consumption doesn't compensate for the slowing growth in investments, there will be a clear slowdown in the economic growth as a consequence, Hyöty says.

Turnaround in Japan

Japan's national debt was increasing to an unsustainable level, and deflation was making it difficult to manage the debt. To turn the situation around, Prime Minister Abe began an experimental monetary policy known as Abenomics, in which Japan's Central Bank is committed to breaking the deflationary spiral at any cost. The Central Bank weakened the yen, because this would accelerate import inflation and improve the revenue for exporting companies. It is hoped that this will lead first to wage inflation for exporting companies and later to general sustainable wage inflation.

Challenges in emerging markets

The four trends in the global economy described above are underway, from imbalanced development towards sustainable development. When reversing an imbalance that has lasted for more than ten years, the recovery process is a long and painful one. The biggest challenge is in the emerging markets.

– Developing countries are financially linked to the United States, as the majority of foreign loans are in dollars. The risk is that the dollar will become even stronger than before and there will be a sharp increase in long-term interest rates in the USA. This would cause difficulties for emerging economies pegged to the dollar market. The Federal Reserve System in the United States has nevertheless assured that rises in interest rates will take place carefully. It is a good thing that, once the external balance of emerging markets has improved, their economies will cope with the US Central Bank's tightened monetary policy better than feared. If emerging markets are examined in relation to labor market, level of debt, external balance and export structure, it's worth looking at India, Indonesia, the Philippines and Malaysia, for example, Hyöty concludes.

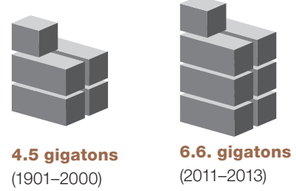
Who?

Jussi Hyöty

- Chief strategist at Elite, the investment services company
- M.Sc., Lic.Sc. (B.A.)
- One of Finland's most well-known and respected market analysts

A STUNNING STATISTIC:

China used more cement in the last three years than the U.S. used in the entire 20th century.



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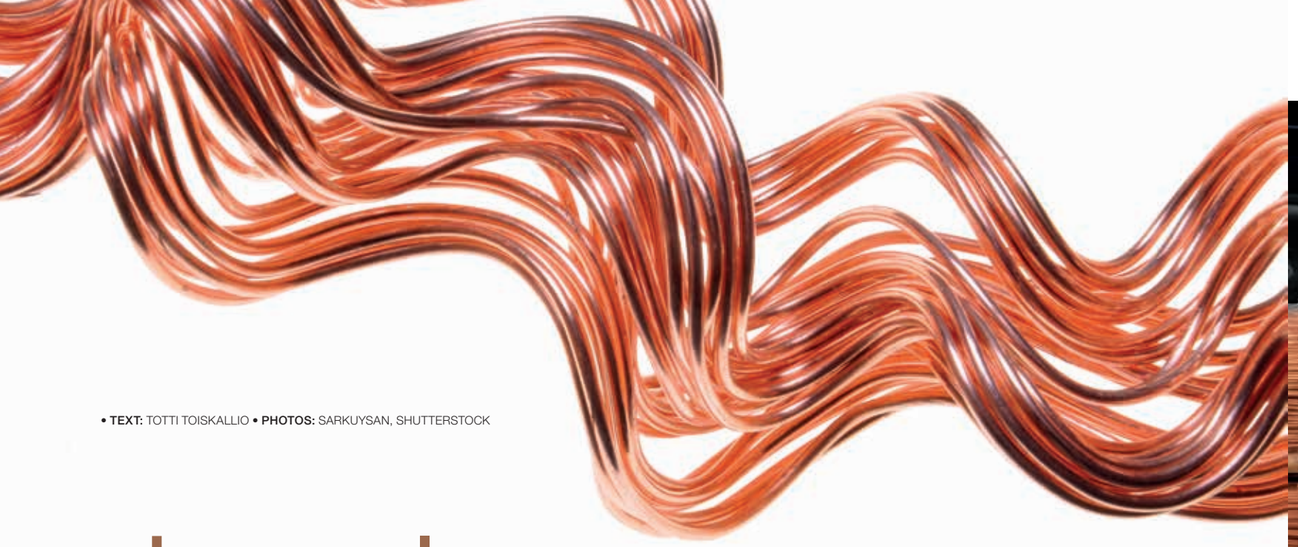
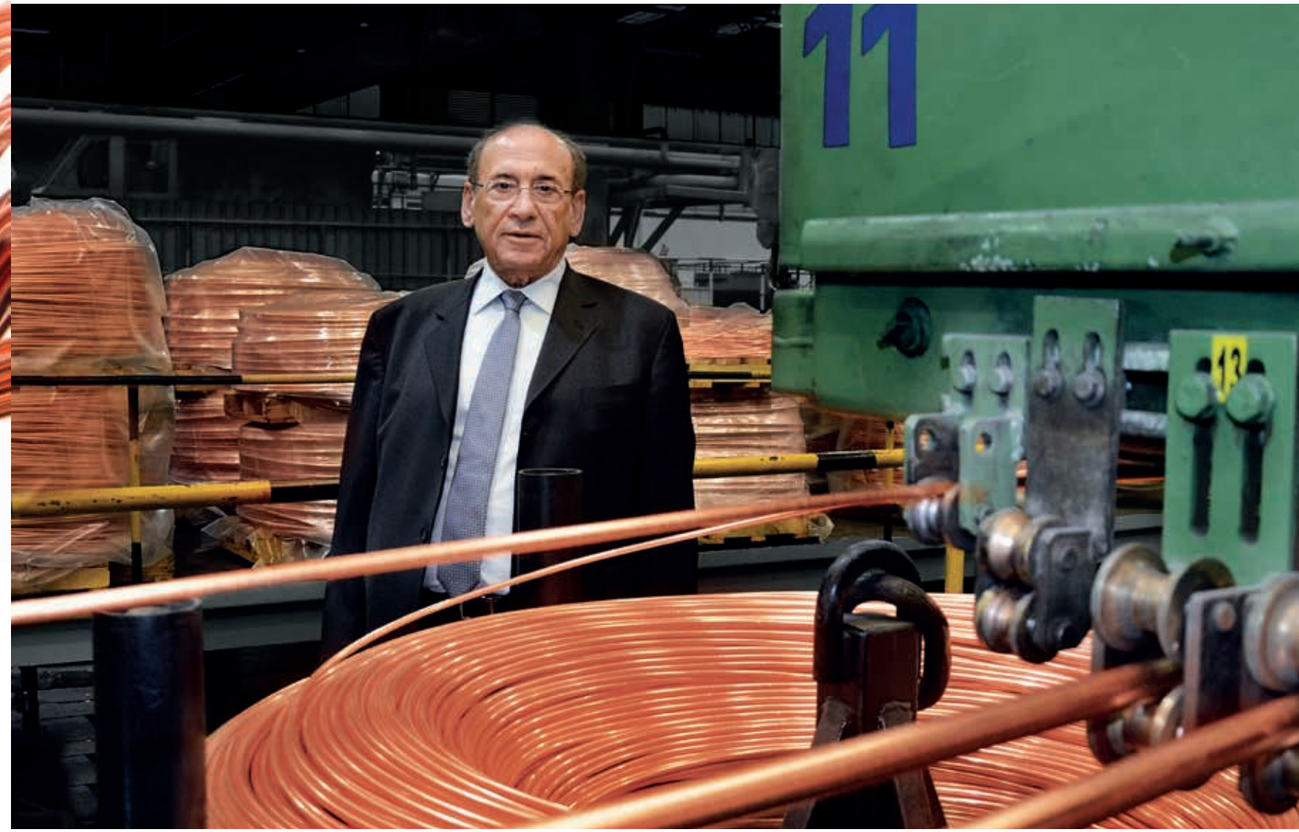


• **TEXT:** TOTTI TOISKALLIO • **PHOTOS:** SARKUYSAN, SHUTTERSTOCK

Jewel made of copper

The leading Turkish electrolytic copper producer, Sarkuysan, has been using UPCAST® technology to manufacture its products for over 40 years. Since it's founding in 1972, Sarkuysan has grown to be a globally renowned supplier of first-rate copper products. To maintain and improve its performance and competitiveness, the company has systematically upgraded its processes and hardware.



Sarkuysan, a Turkey based company operating also in the USA, has a special place in the history of Turkish industrialization. As the first successful publicly held corporation in Turkey, it has paved the way for the whole country's economic development. Being one of the first international implementers of the UPCAST® technology, Sarkuysan now produces a wide range of high quality products to serve industrial customers worldwide – including significant amount of the European car manufacturers, and even suppliers of NASA. Today the company is without a doubt the leading producer of copper wire and tube products in Turkey.

– The current wire-rod demand, including the domestic market and export, lies around 460 000 metric tons per year. Our annual continuous casting capacity is 220 000 metric tons, explains **Mr. Hayrettin Çaycı**, Chairman of Board for Sarkuysan.

Upcast Oy in key role

During its long history, Sarkuysan has learned a thing or two about the copper business. Thanks to its experience and expertise, the company can deliver products of the highest standards.

– To be of industrial value, copper must be purely electrolytic and free from impurities. The production at Sarkuysan can be summarized in two main stages, the first being the refining process, and the second the downstream processing and shaping of the pure electrolytic copper, Çaycı says.

Since the 1970's, Upcast Oy has played a key role in Sarkuysan's success.

– Our first UPCAST® plant, established in 1974, was one of the earliest plants shipped following the commercialization of this technology in Finland. This model had 12 strands, and it was the most suitable option for Sarkuysan's general mentality of gradually growing with reasonable investments, says Çaycı and mentions that his foresight on UPCAST® technology was strong in those days as he spent around half a year being a summer trainee as a student in Outokumpu Oy Pori factory in 1966.

After the first plant was in full effect, it soon became evident that the new technology had what it takes to make the business bloom. A second UPCAST® plant was established only three years after the first one.

– The demand for wire-rod increased continuously, and we needed to answer it. With almost the same priorities, the second plant was put on duty with 16 strands in 1977, Çaycı says.

Close cooperation for continuous improvement

It has now been over 40 years since the first UPCAST® plant of Sarkuysan was established, and the line is still producing first-class copper products. It has, of course, gone through a few modernization processes along the way.

– Sarkuysan sees continuous improvement and upgrades as a way to keep up its high level of competitiveness. The first two modernization projects were carried out in 1998 and 1999 to improve our abilities to produce oxygen free, high quality rods with diameters between 8 and 22 millimeters.

With the vision of improving its global business, Sarkuysan recently invested in another upgrade project that would increase productivity and optimize cost-efficiency. The plant's old induction furnace with a 7-ton holding capacity, rated at 800 kW, was replaced with a new 1300 kW furnace with an 18-ton liquid copper holding volume.

– This project was carried out in close co-operation between the Upcast Oy, Sarkuysan AS and Sarmakina AS technical teams in 2013. The new induction furnace has now been operative since April 2014, and has considerably lowered our energy consumption.

At the same time with the major modernization of furnaces, other modifications in were made as well.

– Since then Sarkuysan has been capable of producing oxygen free copper rod in 8–25 mm diameter range at the same UPCAST® plant, says Çaycı. →

Hayrettin Çaycı
Chairman of Board, Sarkuysan:

It soon became evident that the new technology had what it takes to make the business bloom.

A significant amount of the motor vehicles produced in Europe use Sarkuysan's wires. The upgrades will increase productivity and optimize cost-efficiency.

→ **Future challenges tackled**

According to Çaycı, the future challenges for the copper business will be related to increasing competition while the profit margins narrow down. In addition, aluminum as a conductive metal seems to be an alternative for copper to a certain degree, and to introduce a limited adverse effect to the copper consumption. Whatever the future brings, Sarkuysan aims to tackle the challenges and keep up its competitiveness.

– A positive trend is still expected to continue in the copper market. As a market oriented company, we will follow the new technological developments and apply them to our processes if needed. We strongly believe that our cooperation with Upcast Oy will continue in the future in new projects and collaboration areas, says Hayrettin Çaycı.

Sarkuysan AS

- Leading producer of electrolytic copper products in Turkey
- Founded in 1972
- HQ and production plants in Turkey, and in the USA
- 220 000 metric tons of copper casted annually; products exported to over 60 countries worldwide
- UPCAST® plant in operation since 1974
- Derives its name from the first syllables of the Turkish words for the founders' professions: SARraf (Gold dealer), KUYumcu (Jeweller), SANatkar (Artist).

Our link to Turkish market

You could say, without any exaggeration, that Upcast Oy's Technical Advisor, **Hudai Kocabalkanli**, knows the industry like the back of his hand. After graduating with a degree in Metallurgical Engineering from Istanbul Technical University in 1982, he soon began working for one of the greatest Turkish copper rod and wire producers, Sarkuysan. He first came across an UPCAST® casting line while working in the R&D department of Sarkuysan.

– I took part in the implementation and operation of the line. At the same time, I became familiar with the wire drawing operations, says Kocabalkanli.

In 2001, Kocabalkanli left Sarkuysan to join Outokumpu Castform, now known as Upcast Oy. Today, he works with numerous different clients all around the world.

– My customer visits are related to quality issues arising from incorrect operational parameters, low quality raw materials and unsuitable solidification parameters coming from various sources. I also support UPCAST® line sales.

When it comes to the industry's prospects for the future, he is quite sure of his vision.

– Copper has been used for many centuries without losing its value, and it will be used forever with no other metal ever replacing it, he says.

• **TEXT:** TOTTI TOISKALLIO • **PHOTO:** UPCAST OY

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- previous position: R&D department, Sarkuysan
- a degree in Metallurgical Engineering, Istanbul Technical University

Cutting-edge technology brings results

Adding productivity does not always mean a new casting line or other major investments. Efficiency can also be improved with the correct upgrade or modernization of an existing line. The modular design of the UPCAST® continuous casting lines allows for later increment of the casting speed and capacity without risking the quality.

– What existing customers are looking to accomplish with the upgrade of their UPCAST® line is for example some reduction in their operational costs, increase in annual capacity or in the range of cast products, and to improve overall quality or all of these at the same time, explains **Kari Harju**, Manager of Upgrades and Modernizatons.

With the help of the upgrades and modernizations, even an older line installed decades ago can be brought up to date to meet current demands.

– Typically we design upgrades for these older lines, but sometimes even a quite recent installation can require some changes, due to the new requirements of the customer, says Harju.

– The technology of the older casting lines can date from the 1980s or 1990s, which makes the availability of spare parts a little challenging, expecially that of electrical and automation parts, continues **Tuomas Rajaviita**, Sales Manager.

Productivity can be increased significantly with upgrades. There are many alternatives for various requirements, and the upgrades are always customized and specifically designed for each customer.

Rajaviita lists the benefits: With the new third-generation coolers and by replacing the servo motor, we can have a major impact on the casting speed. In addition, by upgrading the old inductor to a new RUSS double-loop inductor, the customer can increase their melting capacity while reducing their energy consumption. And on top of all this, the lifetime of the inductor can even be tripled.

When a line is being upgraded, the interruption of production is normally fairly short and can quickly be compensated by the improved production efficiency. For example, the installation of the servo and cooler upgrades on the casting line only take a few days.

– Our personnel are always on site during the commissioning to assure that the process goes smoothly. This way, help is always on hand when needed, says Rajaviita.

Where to start if the customer is considering an upgrade? Harju summarizes: – The best and quickest way to start the planning process is to call Upcast Oy or email us the information. We will then evaluate the requirements for the upgrade and find out the various possibilities for its implementation, followed by a written quotation to the customer including the technical specifications.

• **TEXT:** TOTTI TOISKALLIO • **PHOTO:** UPCAST OY

Benefits from UPCAST® upgrades and modernizations

- higher casting speed and more capacity
- better melting efficiency
- improved consistent cast product quality
- lower energy consumption and fewer maintenance breaks
- different cast sizes
- possibility to utilize recycled material in the process

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Customer support team at your service – continuously

The customer support team finds solutions for any technical issues the customers may have and takes care of the fast deliveries of consumables and spare parts. The best and most constructive feedback happens face to face.

• **TEXT:** ANNA KORPI-KYYNY • **PHOTOS:** UPCAST OY

The basis for good customer support service at Upcast Oy is formed as early as the **design phase**, when the entire **project team** determines the specific needs and requirements of the customer. Prior to machinery installation on site, the customer's technical representatives are trained by the project team. As part of this training, the **customer support services** are also presented in detail. After installation and inspection, the casting line is **commissioned by Upcast Oy's experts under the project management**.

– The customers will need consumables and spare parts quite quickly after the commissioning of the line. The project team is responsible for customer service during the warranty period and once it is over the customer support service team takes care of all their needs, explains Customer Service Manager **Ismo Rossi**.

– Our service philosophy includes a fast response to customer contacts. Through mutual predictive consumable and spare part planning, we can minimize the number of sudden emergencies. However, should any such situation take place we are normally able to assist quickly. Fortunately, these kinds of incidents are very rare. This is of course due to the high quality of our products and the proper training. We also have to remember that these production lines are under constant 24/7 control, which ensures that any possible problems can be detected at an early stage.

Strong Expertise

In addition to Rossi and as part of his customer support service team, **Susanna Bollstedt**, Sales Engineer, and **Satu Huhtala**, Sales Executive, take care of the sales and logistics of all parts and components.

– Many of the technical issues can be solved over the phone, but if necessary we can send a technical expert to the site. I personally have been travelling for several weeks on customer service issues this year. At the same time I have accomplished my target of having face to face time with as many customers as possible, explains Rossi.

By using the specifically designed UPCAST® consumables and spare parts the smooth operation of the line without additional disturbances can be assured.

– And the life time of the entire line will certainly be extended by paying attention to the correct parts and components and the maintenance as instructed, says Rossi.

The professional skills of our team are shown by the fact that we are able to ship the correct parts very fast even though our customers cannot always exactly identify the specific part they need.

– It sometimes feels like detective work trying to find out what part the customer is looking for. It makes the work challenging and interesting, says Huhtala.

– We know our machinery and equipment very well so we know how to ask the right questions. And if required we can always turn to the project team and design for advice, adds Rossi.

Best feedback

The customer support service team works very closely both with the **purchasing and warehouse personnel**. The most common parts and components are always available in stock.

– After the customer PO has been received, we are normally able to ship the goods within a day or two, continues Huhtala.

Often there are delays arising from the customs practices in various countries, and goods can be stuck at the customs for some time.

– Delivering spare parts to certain countries means a lot of paperwork. However, with the experience of past years we have become experts with regard to the requirements. When the papers are prepared properly, we are able to minimize the number of unclear issues with the authorities and thus shorten the overall delivery time, say Bollstedt and Huhtala reassuringly.

The customer support service team meets existing and new customers at trade fairs and different events, in addition to which Bollstedt also makes some customer visits in person.

– The visits normally include a factory tour and when exchanging operational experiences and practices with the customers they can also give direct feedback – both the negative and the positive – on the service we provide. When you talk face to face the feedback is mainly very clear and constructive, explains Bollstedt.

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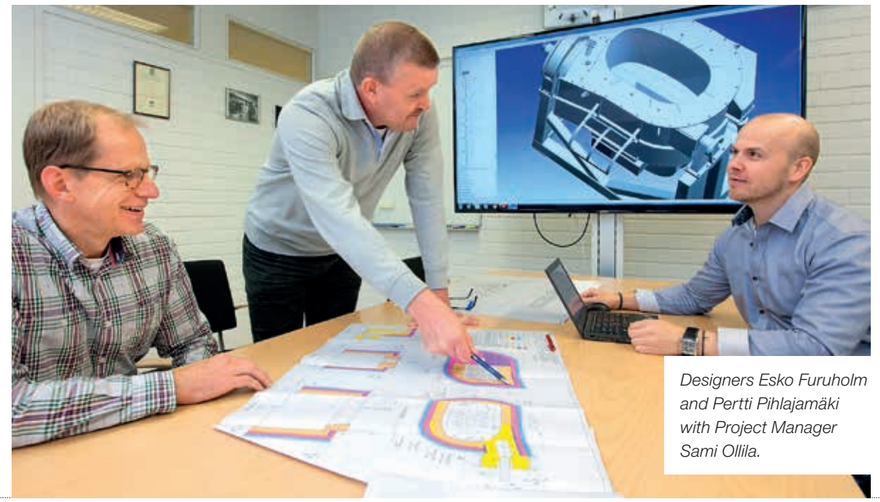
Satu Huhtala is checking equipments with Pasi Kukkasmäki.



Designers Esko Furuholm and Pertti Pihlajamäki with Project Manager Sami Ollila.

Copper Culture

Copper covers the world

Copper has played a major role in architecture for thousands of years. One of the world's most iconic statues, The Statue of Liberty, wears a copper sheeting which is only 2.4 millimeters thick and weighs 27.22 tonnes. When the statue was finished in 1885, it had more copper in it than any other single structure in the world.

There was a time copper was reserved mainly for public buildings, such as churches, government buildings and universities. Copper roofs are often one of the most architecturally distinguishable features of these structures. For example, in 27 B.C. the Romans used copper as roof covering for the **Pantheon**, a breathtaking monument that still stands in the center of Rome.

Copper also covers one of the most well-known attractions in the world, The Statue of Liberty. In 1876 French sculptor **Frederic Auguste Bartholdi** was commissioned to design the statue to commemorate the centennial of the American Declaration of Independence. The sculpture was named Liberty Enlightening the World.

In the process Bartholdi called upon the structural engineering skills of **Gustave Eiffel** to support his 46-metre tall sculpture. Eiffel's job was to design the iron pylon and the secondary skeletal framework, which allows the statue's copper skin to move independently. This was a sort of a trial run for Eiffel's Tower, which was to come about five years later.

The copper sheets were originally about a quarter-inch thick and they were cut into 300 odd pieces and then hammered by hand. The exterior copper covering of the Statue is only 2.4 millimeters thick.

The sculpture arrived in New York from France in June 1885. It was shipped in 350 pieces and was reassembled by the French. On October 28, 1886 President Cleveland oversaw the dedication of the statue in front of thousands of spectators.

• **TEXT:** ANNA KORPI-KYYNY • **PHOTO:** SHUTTERSTOCK • **SOURCE:** THE STATUE OF LIBERTY – ELLIS ISLAND FOUNDATION

R&D

Inventing new applications

UPCAST® research and development work is consistent and systematic, regularly producing new applications to the market – from completely new innovations to improvements for the existing lines. Whether the idea for a new R&D project comes from a customer's wish or arises internally, the target remains the same: improving the customer´s process and its efficiency. Most of the new solutions reach the markets via Upcast Oy´s own Pilot plant.

• **TEXT:** TOTTI TOISKALLIO • **PHOTO:** UPCAST OY

Markku Koivisto (left) and Juho Kalliokoski, our latest expert in R&D team.

The renewed Pilot plant is located in Upcast Oy´s facilities in the Copper Industrial Park in Pori, Finland. It is only a few years old now, but has already seen several new applications sent to the customers. One of the latest improvements tested at the Pilot is a cooler with which the casting speed can be increased as much as 25%, resulting also in the better properties of the cast rod.

– In addition to our own tests at the Pilot plant, we have tested the coolers at our customers' plants, in their processes. This way we can gather important information on how the rod behaves in the down-stream processes. The tests have proved that the system works and the increased speed has not caused any problems to the casting process, says **Markku Koivisto**, R&D Manager.

The Pilot plant has an important role in the UPCAST® R&D work – not only in developing new products, but in assuring the quality of equipment supplied to customers as well.

– High quality equipment is the key to a profitable production process. Through knowing as much as possible about the process, the user experience and being able to learn more at the Pilot plant, we can significantly enhance the possibilities for our customers to increase their productivity.

–One of the remarkable benefits of the UPCAST® continuous casting technology is its exceptionally high availability. We can reach 97% availability and this is based on the working process and high quality equipment. We can also talk about the overall reliability of productions lines, which requires quick customer support as well. One service we at Upcast can execute and are very proud of, Koivisto summarizes.

At the moment, preparations are made for testing various copper alloys at the Pilot plant. In order to be able to run the tests with the required accuracy and reliability, the testing equipment needs to be intact. The Pilot plant now hosts two different lines: a 6-ton channel induction furnace with a new casting machine, and the other line with a 3-ton crucible furnace.

– We will test some time-consuming casts such as OF- or DHP-copper with the larger furnace, whereas the smaller crucible furnace allows quicker and more cost-effective testing cycles, Koivisto says.

The demand for the copper alloys has recently increased, and thus created a clear need for new tests. The most important target is to find out the exact requirements of a production plant for casting of various high quality products. The tests are planned according to the customers´ needs in order to reach results matching the real production conditions and requirements.

– Copper-magnesium (CuMg) alloy for example is among the first ones to be tested, Koivisto says. He regards copper-nickel as a very interesting alloy as well, allowing the possibility to cast tube suitable for seawater tubing and condense pipes. The list of the alloys waiting for testing is not short.

– There are plenty of possible alloys, which we will include into our R&D plan based on demand and interest, Koivisto concludes.

MARKKU KOIVISTO HEAD OF R&D, UPCAST OY:

Our continuous casting technology reaches exceptionally high availability, even 97%.

• **TEXT:** TOTTI TOISKALLIO • **PHOTO:** UPCAST OY

New line using 100% recycled copper

Increased efficiency with a smaller environmental footprint

Utilizing recycled copper in the process of casting oxygen free copper rod has long been the target for manufacturers.

The reason is simple and obvious: cost efficiency. Upcast Oy has developed their continuous casting technology and machinery to meet the requirements for using 100% recycled material – or scrap as many operators call it – in the oxygen free copper rod process.

Using recycled material in the copper rod casting process has been very challenging with regard to both the quality control and the mechanical processing of the material. The casting process itself does not remove the possible metallurgical impurities of the raw material.

– Therefore, we have earlier recommended our customers to charge only small quantities of recycled material together with the pure copper cathodes. This has required extra manual work from operators, increasing the need of workforce, says **Janne Hosio**, Sales Manager.

With the consistent development work and understanding the importance for the customers, Upcast Oy has been able to change the situation. The first UPCAST® Oxygen free (OF) copper (Cu) rod continuous casting line, which utilizes 100% recycled material from other internal processes, was delivered a year ago and has been successfully in operation ever since. The automatic charging technology of the new line is designed specifically for recycled material.

– The final product determines the criteria and limit values for the raw material. Thus, the purity of the recycled material is crucial for the process. Using scrap from other processes of the same manufacturer, we can be sure the material is exactly the kind needed for the casting process, Hosio continues.

In the past the charcoal covering the melt in the furnace has caused some problems in the material feeding and melting process of recycled material by preventing smaller pieces from fully sinking into the melt.

– This can be prevented through pre-handling of the material. In the new line, we also have a hydraulic press forcing all the pieces into the melt, Hosio says.

The automated processes together with the new advanced control system have also added to the production efficiency remarkably. For example, the automatic transfer of the melt results in less manual work, and this way the probability of human error is minimized. The remote access system allows for very quick fault detection followed by fast repair actions. This is extremely important in order to avoid any longer disturbances or breaks in the process.

– Furthermore, the system allows the customers to have all the possible process data enabling them to make adjustments for the efficiency optimization, Hosio concludes.

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Doing what I like

I joined the company in 1997. During my career I have been very lucky as I have had the chance to work in the wire and cable industry for example as a Process Engineer, Project Engineer, Maintenance Superintendent, Project Manager, Production Manager and Plant Manager. This makes me aware of the customers' needs from a customer's own point of view.

Yet awareness is just part of the equation. We are able to build solid relationships that translate into a valued company image. That is perhaps the most important return for us in Upcast Oy.

I believe that the key for success is the level of passion that we put on what we do. **I am** passionate about my work and indeed about everything I take part of – even watching a movie, eating hamburgers, listening to music or ramming an inductor.

As we move forward we also build self-confidence as any experience, good or bad, gives us a lesson and becomes a part of our personal base of knowledge.

There is a saying "You must like what you do". **I am** one of those lucky persons that do what they like. It is simply a coincidence that I like so much what I do!

Your office is where you are

Upcast Oy is expanding the use of IT cloud services this year in order to allow for flexible working anywhere in the world. This will also create new opportunities with regard to customer support service.

Preparations for this cloud service transfer have been going on already for some time at Upcast Oy, and now we can be confident about the whole service concept and its security level, says IT Manager **Jussi Mattila**.

– The most important migrations and integrations of the IT services are going to be carried out this year. At the end of the year, the impacts of the changes will be evaluated and future development plans will be made accordingly."

The safe and secured availability of data means more flexibility for Upcast Oy employees travelling abroad.

– In the future, we will be able to serve our customers better due to the advanced cloud service concept and industrial Internet solutions. The new cloud services make it possible to quickly and reliably diagnose the process as well as carry out some service activities remotely from the other side of the world.

With this transfer, three of our four servers can be removed, which will significantly decrease the need for new devices and maintenance work as well as overall energy consumption.

– The environmental footprint of our IT infrastructure will be reduced by about 80%. All the new services will be purchased from the most efficient, environmentally friendly, secured and certified data centres – we can avoid unnecessary travelling and printing out quite a lot in the future, Mattila continues.

Upcast Oy has kicked off an extranet pilot project with its most important suppliers and partners, aiming to simplify data transfer and also make communication more efficient, thus creating an internal working space for the projects.

Mattila outlines his plans: – After the piloting, and if necessary, we will be able to expand the extranet to serve both new and existing customers.

• **TEXT:** ANNA KORPI-KYYNY

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