



Case: **Ovako Bar Hofors Sweden**



OVAKO

Bottleneck analysis of steel & hot roll mill at Ovako Bar Hofors

With a complex production such as the one at Ovako in Hofors it is very difficult, if not impossible, to do reliable analyses using traditional methods. Ovako needed to increase the capacity of the plant and there was a lot of discussion of where to invest and many opinions on where to find bottlenecks. To gain knowledge of how to proceed and where to invest to gain the most Ovako decided to use dynamic simulation.

SW-Development was called in to perform the simulation of the plant. A model for dynamic simulation of melting shop and hot roll mill was built and several analyses were performed on it. For example, the effect of capacity increase in the smeltery on the hot roll mill, different product mixes, fault situations and resource changes were studied. Of each analysis a comprehensive report was delivered to Ovako.

Using simulation Ovako was able to do in-depth studies of the different investment proposals and select the ones most profitable. The simulation removed the guessing of where the planned investments should be made and helped focus the improvement efforts. The knowledge of the whole production process had earlier been scattered amongst various resources in the plant. During the project Ovako really got to understand the production processes. In the future, Ovako is going to increase the use of simulation in their plant.

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Ovako Bar Hofors Sweden

At Ovako plant in Hofors, about 1250 employees work with producing steel and heavy bars, tubes and rings. The steel melting plant at Hofors provides the whole Ovako group with steel billets.

Today, there is a license for producing 525 000 tons of high quality special steel. A license application for a future increase to about 700 000 tons has been submitted.