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MD Metals Acquires Heavy Gauge Bar Line

RYERSON'S internal consolidation has become MD Metals' gain.

When Ryerson closed a Chicago service center as part of its extensive restructuring efforts, Chicago's MD Metals purchased one of its heavy gauge bar lines at auction. But MD Metals had slightly different plans for the newly acquired used equipment.

Ryerson had used the machine as part of a hand-fed shearing line

and adding an uncoiler, the company was able to fashion a new use for the old equipment. In June, MD Metals commissioned its new heavy gauge Gauer bar line.

In its new form, the bar line is capable of processing material 0.125 to one-half inch thick, and 1 inch to 8 inches wide, and cut material from 24 inches to 24 feet in length. It can work from coil to cut length and from strip to strip.

MD Metals purchased the machine in December 2008, just as the bottom was falling out of the steel industry. But the company is pursuing growth through the downturn by focusing on its niche of narrow slitting and edging of heavy gauge material. The material processed includes alloy grades and high-strength steels.

"Part of our success in riding through this financial tsunami is being in this niche," says owner Michael Dallek. "Specializing has helped us ride through the difficult times."

MD Metals serves as both a service center and as a toll proces-

sor. Processing the material of others accounts for about 25 percent of all sales. The addition of the new line could alter the ratio, though Dallek hopes it will boost both general sales and toll processing opportunities.

The company sells to end users, other service centers and distributors. As larger warehouses have pulled back during the trying times, MD Metals has capitalized on filling some of that business. Dallek says those larger warehouses, to better manage inventory, are using companies such as MD Metals to handle the small quantity orders.

Besides the new line, which complements three existing slitters and the edging capabilities, MD Metals recently completed its ISO 9001:2008 certification. The company held an open house at the end of June for approximately 50 customers to demonstrate its new capabilities.



MD Metals hopes to get a boost in business from its newly refurbished heavy-gauge bar line.

for narrow strips. But just as it did with an old Acme Steel slitter two years earlier, MD Metals both refurbished and redesigned the machine. By adding length control devices, building a hydraulic shear