

Compacting and recycling machining sludge

Treating machining sludge is a recurrent problem for engineering companies. SFH's solution has been to design presses capable of compacting the sludge, with the resulting product then being recycled in a foundry or steel mill.

What can be done with machining sludge? SFH presented the solution at the "Industry" tradeshow that took place in Lyon, France, from April 5 to 8, 2011. The company markets a range of 20 to 300 ton presses that are capable of treating this type of sludge. The machines also make it possible to re-use the cutting fluids, thus reducing the amount of effluents that need to be treated externally. As for the sludge, after compaction it can be turned into raw material that can be put to use in a steel mill. In this way waste management leads to financial gain rather than incurring additional expenses.

An SFH - Cetim co-development

"At the request of our clients, we have been producing machines to recycle cutting fluids for several years, explains Yves Marnas, CEO at SFH. We wanted to take things a stage further by compacting the sludge itself."

Designing the new press posed some complex problems. Hence the link with Cetim, who have been working on ways of treating machining sludge for more than fifteen years. "We wanted to find a long-term solution but we needed help in terms of legislation, eco-design, publicity, etc.", says Yves Marnas. The alliance between SFH and Cetim has proved to be effective. Set up in April 2010 as a service eligible for research tax credit, and supplemented by a co-development contract, it has resulted in an operational machine less than a year later.

Two patents were taken out by SFH during the testing period. The major



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technological advance has been to compact sludge that was once considered beyond compacting.

Customised solutions

"We set up trials with a variety of engineering professions", says Yves Marnas. *What we have to offer today is a range of components rather than a single machine so that each customer can make use of a solution that is most suitable to his personal situation."*

OUR CUSTOMER

Corporate name
SFH

Activity

SFH, specialist in hydraulic power, has developed a range of presses for compacting machining sludge and shavings. It offers a full line of chip processing services (pressing, milling, compacting) together with the re-use of cutting fluids

Sales turnover 2010
4.5 million euros

Workforce
30 personnes

Cetim's asset

In co-development Cetim joins forces with an SME to help design and develop an innovative product. Cetim is paid for its services by means of royalties during the marketing of the product – a sharing of risks that lightens the financial burden for the SME during the development phase.

