

TTI Group's new solvent degreasing system seals UK's first SER-compliant heat treatment plant

TTI Group is the first heat treatment business in the UK to respond to the Solvents Emissions Regulations (SER) legislation by installing an EVT hermetically sealed solvent degreasing system.



TTI is part of the materials technology division of Aalberts Industries NV and has nine sites in the UK. All these sites are ISO 9001-accredited, and specific sites also have other approvals such as NADCAP aerospace accreditation.

According to Martin Dyson, TTI Regional Manager: "TTI Group set up a project team to review the effectiveness and costs of component cleaning

systems, whether existing systems or possible alternatives, and to assess the future costs and regulation of available systems. It concluded that for heat treatment processes such as nitriding, Nitrotec and vacuum treatment, where the effectiveness of the pre-process cleaning is of paramount importance, the only cleaning process that satisfies the laid-down criteria is solvent degreasing.”

This led to a partnership developing between TTI, EVT Eiberger Pfohler GmbH and EVT’s UK distributor, IB Industries of Bolton. The outcome of their discussions was the installation in June 2006 of a hermetically sealed solvent system with a chamber size of 1300 mm x 1300 mm x 700 mm. This has provided TTI West Bromwich with the equivalent capacity to heat treatment plants using a solvent spray and vapour process, with a regenerating carbon absorption system removing the last traces of solvent from the chamber prior to the finish of the cleaning cycle.

“The decision to choose EVT was based on the system’s capability to satisfy new legislation, its robust design and its compact size,” says Martin Dyson. “It is also energy-efficient and operationally effective by delivering the desired hourly throughputs. These features combined with a competitive price, a bespoke design offering low maintenance costs, and UK-based after-sales service and support made the decision relatively easy.”

By installing a hermetically sealed solvent degreaser from EVT in combination with the closed-loop SAFE-TAINER system, TTI is benefiting from the high-quality cleaning performance of chlorinated solvents used in a safe and sustainable manner – thereby complying with legislative requirements and contributing significantly to care of the environment.