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Integrating Centerline and Wedge Control: A Comprehensive Approach to Enhancing Strip Stability, Precision, and Product Quality

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SMS group has recently completed a technological upgrade at a hot strip mill complex in Germany, focusing on the integration of camera-based strip steering. This upgrade aimed to enhance the operational efficiency and stability of the mill.

The implementation of the X-Pact® Centerline Control system has significantly improved mill performance by providing precise control over strip positioning and reducing tail-end problems. The upgrade was executed with minimal disruption. The system's effectiveness is evidenced by the substantial reduction in strip position variance and tail-end defects, which previously caused unplanned work roll changes, as well as improved strip geometry and coil shape.

This paper details the operational benefits observed post-upgrade, including increased process stability and reduced operator intervention. The integration of advanced control systems not only mitigates critical events but also supports the industry's shift towards centralized, potentially autonomous production operations. The findings, described by customers as "positive is still too mild," suggest that such technological advancements are pivotal in achieving the desired stability for future 'lights out' manufacturing environments.

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