#### Abstract:

To meet the requirements of higher strength, improved weldability, and higher performance placed on structural steel plates for large-scale structures in recent years while also reducing manufacturing costs, JFE Steel has developed revolutionary plate manufacturing technologies; the Super-OLAC, a next-generation accelerated cooling technology for plates with a high cooling capacity, achieving the theoretical cooling limit, and uniform cooling performance, and the HOP (heat-treatment on-line process), an induction heating-type on-line heat-treatment process which reduces delivery times. Making full use of these plate manufacturing technologies, JFE Steel has developed high quality, high performance plates for a wide range of felds.

## 1. Introduction

Although the performance requirements placed on steel plates in recent years differ to some extent depend-

tional accelerated cooling. Moreover, the surface temperature distribution in the plate (plane) after the *Super*-OLAC shows uniformity equal to that of as-rolled steel plates, with which accelerated cooling is not performed.

Cumulative production of accelerated cooling steel plates using the *Super*-OLAC exceeded 3 million tons in the frst 5 years after startup. The No. 2 unit of *Super*-OLAC was started up at JFE Steel's West Japan Works Kurashiki District Plate Rolling Plant in May 2003, followed by No. 3 unit at the East Japan Works Keihin District Plate Rolling Plant in July 2004. Thus, all three of JFE Steel's plate mills are now equipped with state-of-the-art accelerated cooling equipment. It should also be noted that this new accelerated cooling technology, *Super*-OLAC, received the Iwatani Naoji Memorial Award and Okochi Memorial Technology Award in 2002, the Special Award of the Japan Industrial Technology Review Committee in 2003, and the National Invention Award in 2004.

### 3. New On-Line Heat Treatment Process "HOP"

To date, manufacture of quenched and tempered steel plates has been performed off-line using heat treatment equipment separated from the rolling line. To improve effciency by performing this off-line treatment as an on-line process, an on-line heat treatment process called HOP (heat-treatment on-line process) was installed and put into operation at the West Japan Works Fukuyama District Plate Rolling Plant.

JFE Steel previously developed induction heating equipment for rough bars with a width of 2 m, which is applied before the fnishing rolling line in hot rolling<sup>5)</sup>. However, it was necessary to develop an unprecedented new large-scale induction heating power source for use in heating steel plates with widths of 4.5 m. The technology, in which multiple units of the newly-developed high frequency power source are operated synchronously in parallel, was a c a 0 gh which

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High expectations are placed on the HOP, which

# (2) Horizontal Flexure Compensation by Wedge Control (Defection Compensation)

Flexure of the leveling rolls is calculated, and horizontal fexure (defection) compensation is performed by adjusting screw down to be uniform in the plate width direction using wedges.

#### (3) Intermesh Control by a Hold Down Roll

An intermesh control function using a hold down roll was introduced to compensate for reduced screw down accuracy due to roll wear, etc.

**Figure 9** shows the distribution of maximum bending strain in the plate width direction when plates with an attached strain gauge were leveled with the C/L with new functions. The new functions make it possible to impart large bending strain uniformly across the full width, establishing a uniform heavy reduction leveling technology for wide materials with the largest width in the world (5 350 mm).

As described above, by utilizing the uniform cooling capacity of the *Super*-OLAC, the new functions of the improved C/L can be employed extremely effectively, and production of steel plates with extremely low residual stress is possible.

# 5. New Products Manufactured Using Innovative Processes

#### 5.1 Steel Products for Shipbuilding

With the recent trend toward large-scale container ships, heavy gauge, high strength steel plates are increasingly adopted, requiring ultra-large heat input in welding. Because this causes coarsening of the HAZ microstructure, securing low temperature toughness has become a problem. To meet this need, JFE Steel produces heavy gauge, high strength steel plates with no reduction in weldability at the same carbon equivalent ( $C_{\rm eq}$ ) as conventional steels by using the *Super-OLAC*, which features a high cooling rate and cooling uniformity.

## **5.2 Steel Products** for Architectural Construction

High strength plates are required as steel frame materials for high-rise construction in urban areas. On the

other hand, in view of the fracture damage to beam edge welds in the Hyogoken-Nanbu Earthquake (Kobe Earthquake, 1995) there is a heightened need for high performance steel products with a low yield ratio (yield point/ tensile strength), high toughness, and good weldability in architectural steel frames. Recently, there has also been a heightened need for steel products with improved toughness in the HAZ in the large heat input welding used in box columns. In response to these needs, JFE Steel developed a steel plate with a lower yield point value of 385 N/mmå, "HBL385 (High-Building 385)," as a high strength steel product which offers a combination of economy, seismic resistance, and weldability, making full use of advanced TMCP technology with the Super-OLAC, and received material authorization from Japan's Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport. In addition, JFE Steel has also developed and commercialized high HAZ toughness steels of tensile strength from 490 N/mmå to 590 N/mmå grade steels for large heat input welding.

#### 5.3 Steel Products for Bridges

Because bridges are important structures in the social infrastructure, high quality and advanced fabrication techniques are required. With larger scale structures and heightened requirements for high effciency in fabrication in recent years, high performance, high strength steel plates which offer high strength and high toughness in combination with weldability and economy have been strongly demanded. For this need, JFE Steel developed and commercialized an as-rolled SM570TMC steel plate with an optimized balance of strength and toughness by making maximum use of the functions of the Super-OLAC and controlling hardenability by micro-addition of alloy elements. This technology was also introduced in an extremely-low carbon banitic-type high strength steel with a carbon content of less than 0.02 mass%, realizing production of products corresponding to the newly-proposed standards BHS500(W) and 700 W<sup>7)</sup>, aiming at rationalization of design/fabrication and higher performance in bridges. Welding hardening is dramatically reduced, while also achieving high strength, and because the steel is an as-rolled product, it is possible to meet short deadlines.

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