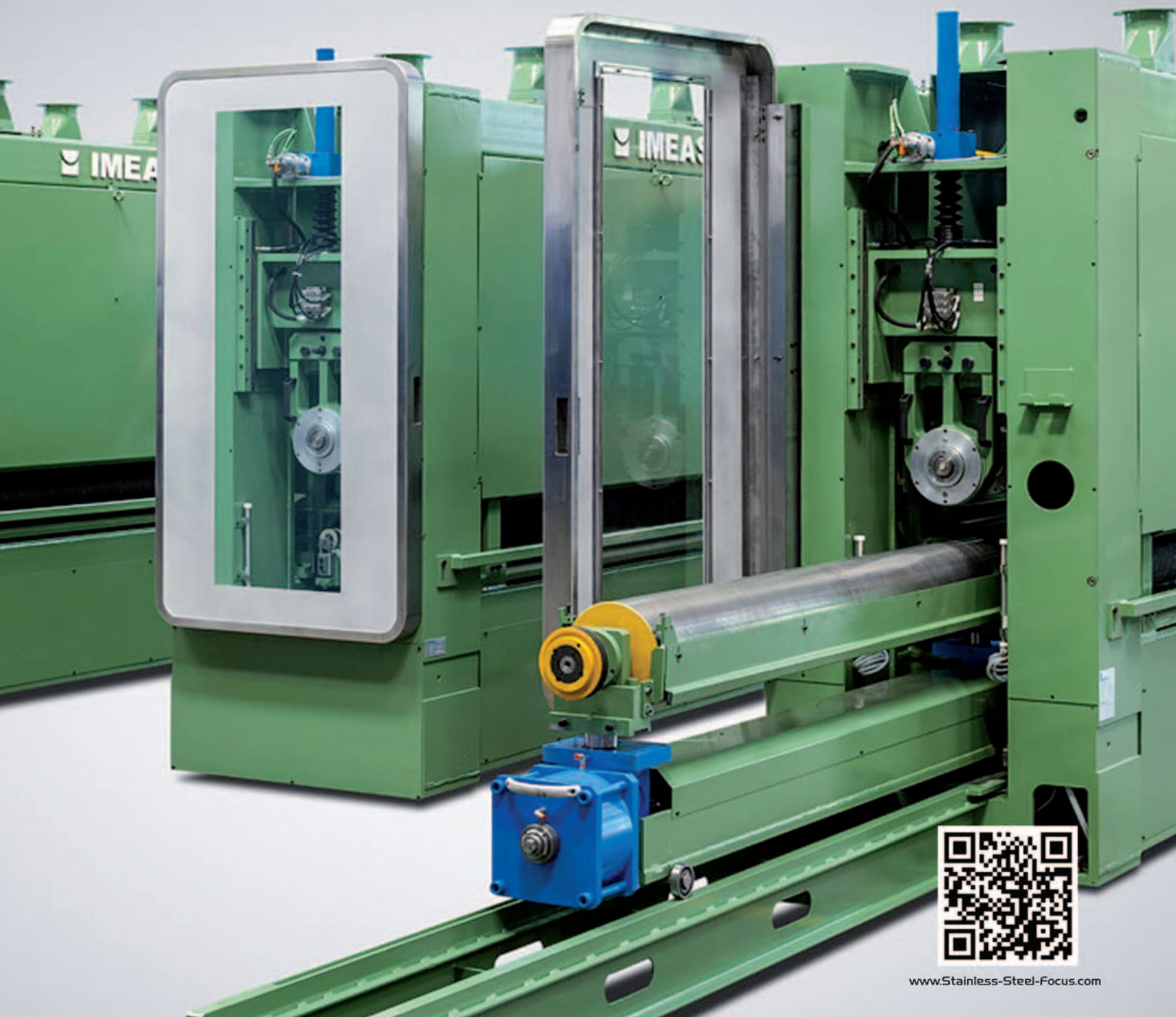


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oryx commodity review

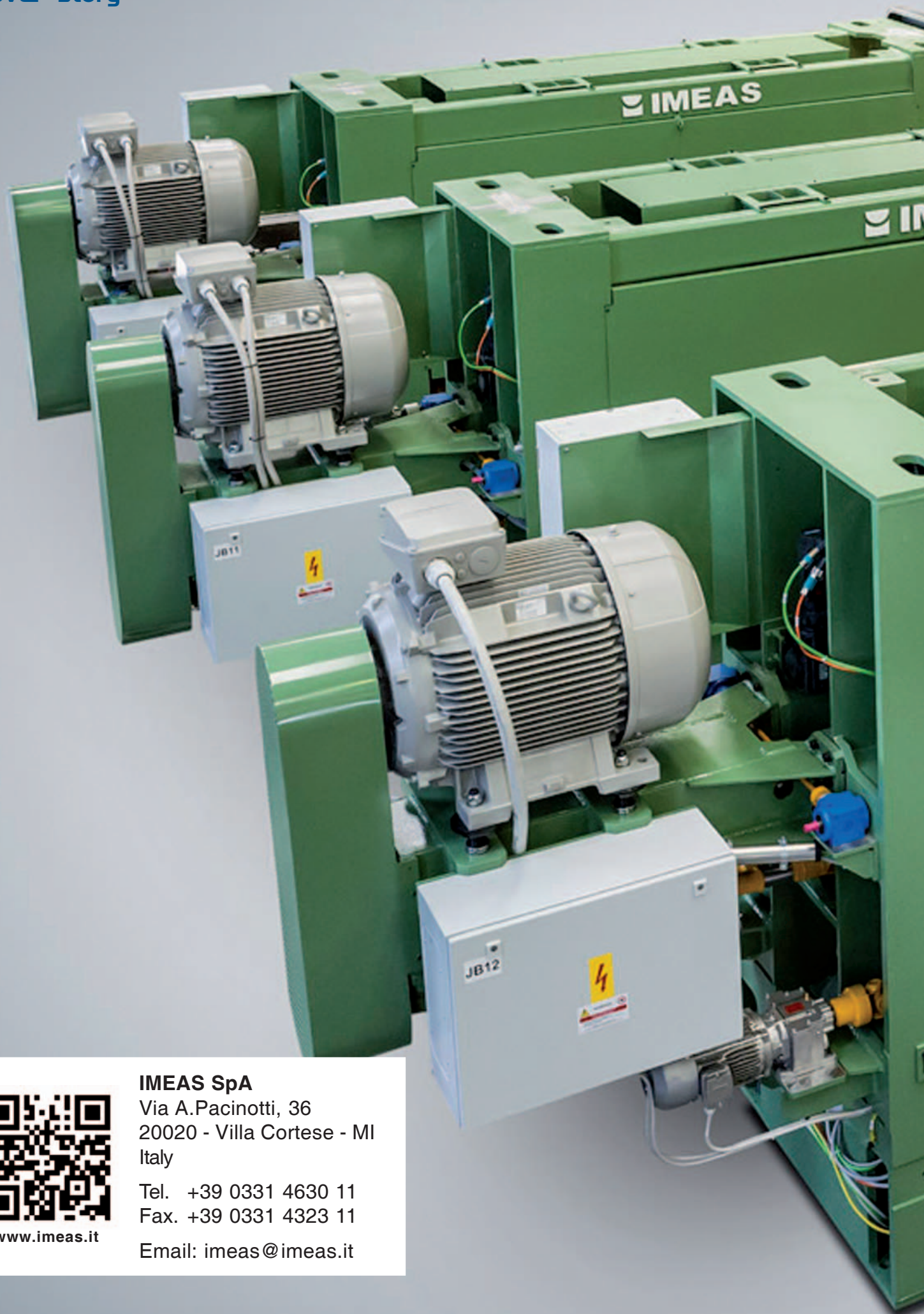
Primary nickel production increase mainly due to NPI

Cover story

IMEAS: New AX series a major success - Some like it hot

Cutting & welding

Heller machining centre supplied to GKN Aerospace Filton



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New AX series a major success

Some like it hot

At first glance it might ironically seem like the title of the famous Billy Wilder film, shot with the fascinating Marilyn Monroe. Instead it is about the stainless steel world and the increasing trend to work hot rolled steel, which is notoriously more complex to process since it has more surface and flatness defects, as well as a wider range of thicknesses compared to cold rolled material.

Imeas SpA, a leading Italian company in the production and supply of turnkey, highly customized equipment to grind and polish special metals, has responded to the market need with the development of its new AX generation.

The AX series was presented to the market at EuroBLECH 2014 and, in the short period since the market launch, it has been remark-

ably successful among Imeas' customers all around the world.

So far, more than 40 polishing and brushing modules have been installed, and the sales forecasts for the next period foresee a further increase in market share.

The success achieved is the result of the innovative technical solutions (both electronic and mechanical) implemented in the new

product. The target was to increase not only the motor power (today the maximum power is 110 kW, an increase of over 80% compared to the previous generation), but also to improve the aspects of general maintenance and efficiency.

The technical solutions developed with the new AX machines allow the range of workable materials and thicknesses



to be widened; the new thickness range goes from 0.4 to 15mm.

Following the trend of the Asian and North American markets, the machines can be supplied in dry and wet versions.

Each AX module can be constructed in three standard versions:

- AXN polishing module equipped with an abrasive belt
- AXR brushing module equipped with a Scotchbrite roll
- AXHL Hair Line module

For specific purposes, the same versions are available with a bottom working head.

With small changes, each module can work different material shapes and sizes, such as coils and sheets. Moreover, each line can be composed in a flexible way, defining the number of working heads on the basis of the required finishing type and speed.

Each machine comprises a monolithic frame, which is stronger and tougher than in previous generations. It allows greater forces to be applied to process a wider range of materials, to remove high-stock material and is designed for 24x7 operations at full load. The AX development also involved the electrical and software design, which have both been fundamentally renewed to the full advantage of the new-graphic easy-to-use interface of the operator. As a result, set-up time and productivity have been improved.

The control software in particular, entirely designed by Imeas, allows the rapid management of the operating parameters and of the working modalities, which can be arranged and saved as "working recipes". Thanks to the high level of automation reached, the machine is auto-adjustable on the basis of the thickness of the material at the entrance and can control the power of each working head in real time to always obtain an homogeneous and consistent finishing quality.

Additional key features of the AX series include:

- Redesigned feeding system with independent control of the motors to induce a tension on the material surface. This is very useful for fine thicknesses

- FCS technology for improved and precise tracking of the abrasive belt
- Scotchbrite rolls equipped with the innovative high-frequency oscillating system. Oscillations up to 700 cycles/minute (Imeas patent)
- Automatic dressing device for the brushing roll. Periodically a diamond wheel



revives the brushing surface to always maintain an homogeneous finish

- High range of workable sheet shapes. The minimum length is 500mm and the maximum width is 2000mm
- TeleService

The AX modules are part of the wide range of metalworking machinery offered by IMEAS, which develops and supplies completely customized "turnkey" lines, based on the needs of its customers.

IMEAS' product portfolio includes:

- Machines for polishing and brushing (AX and AT series)
- Heavy grinding machines (RCS series)
- Equipment for surface protection PVC coating machines (PL series)
- Machines for mirror polishing (Supermirror)
- Automatic handling equipment and roller-ways for sheet and plates up to 15 metres long and 200mm thick
- Complete lines to process coil up to 36 tonnes