



Press Information

March 5th, 2015

Keeping railway turnouts from ice and drifting snow

Osborn TurbFly® helps railway companies to be on time and reduce costs

(Huskvarna/Sweden) Did you ever wonder what happens to railroad turnouts in winter? They can freeze because of moisture or become inoperable by drifting snow. A special heater can prevent the turnout from freezing, but consumes a lot of energy. And in case of heavy drifting snow maintenance vehicles still need to be on the track to clean the turnout. Osborn's product TurbFly® helps saving up to 75% of the energy used for the heating equipment and minimizes maintenance activities. A specially designed set of brushes is being mounted along the turnout on both sides. The brush strips function as a wind shield for the heater to keep the rail "warm" and in addition prevent drifting snow from settling on the turnout.

Osborn has invented this brush system 10 years ago in Scandinavia. Since then over 1.500 turnouts were equipped with the system and help trains to arrive on time in winter. Per Axelsson, CEO of Osborn Sweden is very pleased with the reactions of his international customers: "Being operable and on time is essential for any railroad enterprise. Saving costs is another factor in times where everyone tries to be efficient, and even more so when saving energy is involved. The feedback for our invention is overwhelmingly positive", he says.



In order to visualize what TurbFly® does, Osborn has recently undergone some testing in a wind tunnel facility close to Stockholm. Original size rails along with TurbFly® were mounted into the wind tunnel. With a set of unique experiments it was possible to verify how the brush construction literally lifted drifting snow over the turnout.

The results were put on record in a video. (To view the video visit <https://youtu.be/PSkdfdopXxs> or scan the QR code on this document.)

Throughout the tests an additional monitoring equipment measured the temperature of the turnout in various stages: turnout with only TurbFly® installed, turnout solely with the heating equipment and turnout with TurbFly® and heater.

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- 2 -

The result speaks for itself: The desired rail temperature could be reached four times quicker, when TurbFly[®] was installed together with the heater. The amount of saved energy for the heater added up to 75 %. By this TurbFly becomes the most effective turnout protection system in today's market.

More information on TurbFly[®] can be found online at: www.turbflyprotec.com.

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About Osborn:

Osborn International is a global leader in surface treatment solutions and finishing tools. From its headquarters in Burgwald (Germany) Osborn leads an international manufacturing, developing and trading organization and belongs to Jason Finishing Group (USA). Products are sold in 120 countries, meanwhile there are 14 production and sales facilities. Besides 10,000 standard products, Osborn has a portfolio of more than 100,000 tailored customer solutions.

High-quality products are being used for all sorts of industrial applications such as descaling, deburring of non-ferrous metals, steel, stainless steel and aluminum; manual or automatic cleaning of weld seams; washing, dusting and many other of surface treatment processes.

As only manufacturer in this area Osborn has been awarded a certification by the German safety-organization TÜV-Süd for more than 700 articles of the current assortment.

Another area of expertise for Osborn is the manufacturing of Idler Rollers, Cam Followers and Rails, which are sold under the brand name Load Runners®. They have a very long service life, are maintenance free and can simultaneously withstand heavy radial and thrust loads.

Osborn's portfolio is perfectly completed by products by the brand name Lippert-Unipol. The assortment contains liquid and solid compounds as well as polishing and grinding-tools for automated and manual polishing.

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