



*Innovation for Growth*

*Press release March 23, 2012*

## **Focus on effective regulation of annealing furnace when Prevas awarded order from Outokumpu**

**Prevas has received an order from Outokumpu in Avesta. The order is for a system upgrade of annealing furnace regulation and optimization.**

As the cost of energy increases, so do companies' needs to find optimal energy solutions for production. Manufacturing steel products requires a great deal of energy. The material is heated up and cooled down several times to achieve the desired qualities. In order to effectively utilize furnaces, it is necessary to optimize productivity, quality and energy consumption.

Outokumpu is one of the world-leading suppliers of stainless steel. As a means of ensuring, streamlining and optimizing production, the company is upgrading its main control system for the annealing furnace in Avesta.

"Ongoing system upgrades primarily mean we can improve the reliability of deliveries for the furnace since old outdated software components are replaced. At the same time, we are taking a step toward refining the architecture of the entire system in order to facilitate and streamline future process improvements and system maintenance," says Jan-Erik Hellgren, who is a project manager at Outokumpu.

"Prevas has cooperated with Outokumpu in Avesta for a long time, and we are very pleased with the opportunity to deepen cooperation as a result of the order. Effectively regulating the annealing furnace is complicated since there are many different types of belts and dimensions moving in a relatively quick and continuous flow through the furnace. The control system is based on an MPC regulator that takes the qualities of the furnace and material into consideration, and regulates the heat and speed on the belts to achieve the right level of heat as effectively as possible," says Johan Bäckman, Business Unit Manager at Prevas.

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### **For more information and follow-up**

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### **About Prevas**

With cutting edge expertise in embedded systems and industrial IT, Prevas contributes by providing innovative solutions that create growth. Prevas was founded in 1985, and the company is the main supplier and development partner to leading companies in industries such as life science, telecommunications, vehicle, defense, energy and engineering. Offices are located in Sweden, Denmark, Norway, the United Arab Emirates and India. The company has just over 550 employees. Prevas has been listed on the NASDAQ OMX Nordic Exchange in Stockholm since 1998. For more information, see [www.prevas.se](http://www.prevas.se).

### **About Outokumpu**

Outokumpu is a global leader in stainless steel with the vision of being the clear leader. Customers in a wide range of industries use our stainless steels and services worldwide. Our stainless steels can be recycled, and they are maintenance-free, strong and durable. Our stainless steel is a material for building a sustainable future.