



## The most sophisticated panel cutting machine!

Chantiers de L'Atlantique is the largest shipyard in France. Its order book is full until 2004-2005. The company specialises in passenger cruise liners and, as such, it has just received an order for the largest passenger ship ever built and called the Queen Mary 2.

Three years ago, the target was to increase productivity on the panel line by 30%. In order to achieve this target, Esab Cutting

Systems designed a panel machine with an integrated grinding device. The grinding head removes paint from the surface (50 mm grinding width) where the stiffeners will subsequently be welded, at a speed of 15 m/min instead of 3 m/min with a "normal" shot-blasting device. This speed guarantees that less than 5 microns of paint will remain after grinding. The machine was equipped with a grinding unit, two

arc markers and two triple-torch head units. The initial target of 30% has been more than met! The machine is used on three shifts, seven days a week!

Today, the new target is once again to increase productivity by 30% compared with the existing machine. This target can be realised by increasing the cutting speed using plasma instead of flame cutting.

The new TXB 25000 machine will be equipped with a grinding unit, two arc markers, one triple-torch head and a dry VBA plasma head. In order completely to extract the fumes that are generated, an exhaust table measuring 20 m x 20 m will be installed. This is a brand-new concept and all the equipment should be installed within three weeks and commissioned at the end of August. ESAB, always a cut above the rest!

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