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Heras Oirschot, The Netherlands

Industry



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Heras

Oirschot, The Netherlands



Challenge

Heras is the undisputed market leader in outside security. Day in, day out, this company welds a lot of fences. The resultant welding smoke had always been a serious problem. It was time for a more efficient and effective solution.

"I've worked at Heras for a year and a half, but this has been a problem for years", explains Harm Evers. As Health & Safety Officer, he wanted to address the negative consequences of welding smoke. "Published studies show what products are available for reducing welding smoke. You come across so many things", explains Evers.

"We tried mobile units with a sort of 'extraction hose' next to the workers, but these had an adverse effect on productivity. And the use of a welding helmet with overpressure, to protect the welder with a mask of air, did not solve the problem of welding smoke in the halls."

Solution

The search ended when Harm met Dick Stoorvogel of Zehnder Clear Air Solutions.

"I immediately had a good feeling about it", Harm recalls with enthusiasm. "We had a zero measurement carried out by both Arbo Unie and Zehnder. The threshold value of welding smoke during a spatial measurement, carried out by the Arbo, must legally

be within 1.0 mg/m³. Before the installation of Zehnder Clean Air Solutions, we measured 4.0 to 5.0 mg/m³. After installing the units, the levels dropped to 0.78 and 0.80 mg/m³. The measurements were very important in the decision by Heras to permanently install the Clean Air Solutions units. The new measurements taken four months later recorded a reduction of around 85 %."

The units have now been in place for around five months. Heras has experienced such a good improvement in the air quality and working conditions that the units now hang in two welding halls. And as a further sign of their success, they have now also been installed in the coating line.



FACTS

Company:	Heras
Person interviewed:	Harms Evers, Health & Safety Officer
Sector:	Market leader in the field of outside security solutions. From fences to complete security of grounds.
Location:	Oirschot, Noord-Brabant
Dust reduction after installation:	85 %
Dust source:	Welding smoke, particulate that is released when welding fences
Benefits:	Cost-cutting, cleaner and healthier air and user-friendliness
Installed products:	14 x E3000, in two welding halls and along the coating line



A lot of dust is produced in the coating line when sanding and removing the dust (blow cleaning) from the fences, which is then powder coated. There are now a total of 14 air cleaning units at Heras.

“It is a very clever, effective system: no reconstruction of the walls is required and production can continue unimpeded. If you had built in an extensive, integrated air filter system instead, you would have to interrupt the production. Furthermore, it is questionable whether such a system would have the same effect. Zehnder Clean Air Solutions, on the other hand, are easily installed only using a fork-lift truck and a crane. It is then just a question of plugging them into the sockets. It’s as simple as that: plug and play. This gives it real added value.

The system has proven being extremely effective in greatly reducing welding fumes and dust. It is also user-friendly and we almost forget it’s there.”

Result and added value

The employees benefit considerably from the system of Zehnder Clean Air Solutions.

“They find the working conditions more pleasant. We think that is very important. The welders no longer stand in a draught. The Clean Air Solutions units do not blow down at full blast. The airstreams circulate above the workplace to benefit the employees even more. And, what’s more important, is that the cloud of blue smoke has now disappeared. It’s a much cleaner and healthier working environment.”

The fact that the Heras factory was constructed back in 1965 means there are certain restrictions on the use of new technology. There are plans for a new building. In the meantime, however, Harm Evers found a system that is easy to install, easy to remove, and a financially attractive investment.

“Zehnder Clean Air Solutions are very affordable. If you have to adapt the building to integrate a complex system, the costs can be high. These units simply save an enormous amount of money. Added to all the other advantages, we at Heras can recommend Zehnder Clean Air Solutions to any company that has to deal with welding smoke.”

