

# IBAAS 2025

## TECHNICAL LECTURE SERIES



# INCREASE EFFICIENCY AND SAFETY IN YOUR CAST HOUSE USING AUTONOMOUS RAIL MOUNTED FURNACE TENDING EQUIPMENT AND SMART IN- FURNACE CAMERAS



MARK BUMFORD, SALES DIRECTOR, RIA CAST HOUSE ENGINEERING GMBH

# RIA Cast House Engineering GmbH



**Rackwitz Industrieanlagen GmbH** established in 1997

- Cast House Products
- Downstream Extrusion Line Products

Rebranded **RIA Cast House Engineering GmbH** in 2018

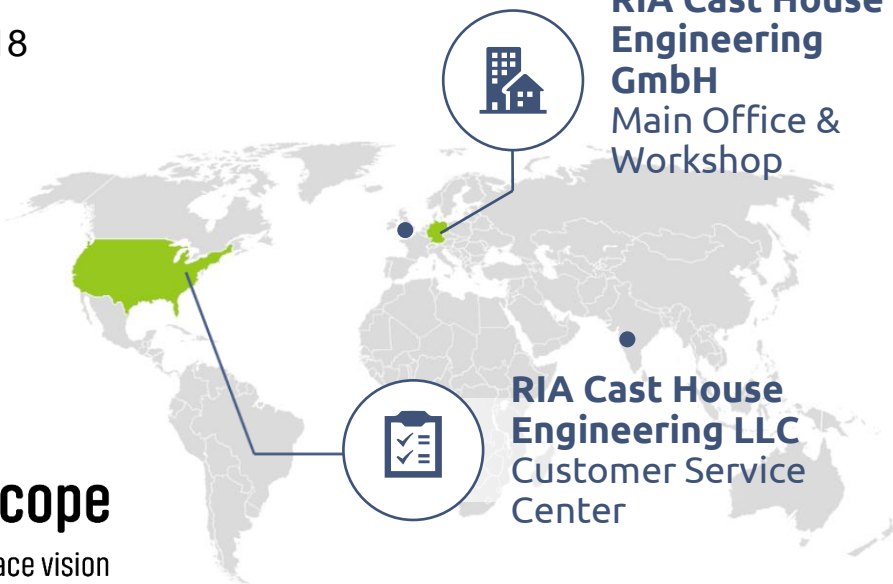
- Autonomous Furnace Charging Machines
- Autonomous Furnace Skimming Machines

**RIA Cast House Engineering LLC** established in USA

- Spares, Service and Support
- US Sales

Introduction of first **Fioscope GmbH** Cameras in 2014

- Exclusive agreement for Aluminium Cast Houses 2021
- MD RiA becomes MD of Fioscope and RiA 2022
- Business relocated from Freital to Leipzig 2022
- Shared office space and resources 2022



# 92 Charging and Skimming Machine References Worldwide



## Autonomous Furnace Charging Machines

Charging Machines: 57 Total

30 Europe | 25 Americas | 2 Asia



## Autonomous Furnace Skimming Machines

Skimming Machines: 35 Total

18 Europe | 16 Americas | 2 Asia

# RiA Customers



Rio Tinto

Hydro

REAL ALLOY



Novelis



sapa:

HUECK



TALUM

thöni

STEP/G

ALINVEST  
Member of MTX GROUP



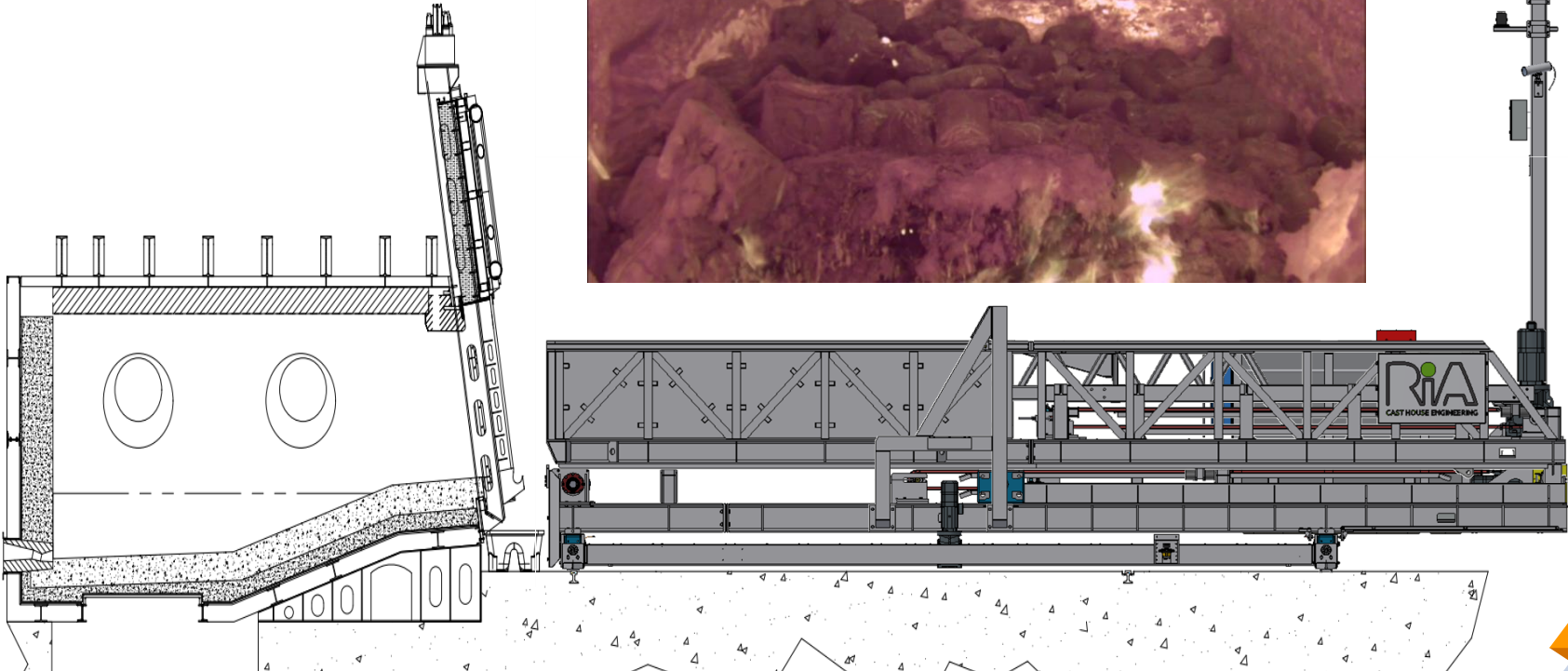
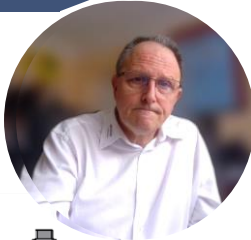
# RiA Charging Machines



- 100% staff safety through fully automated charging
- Up to 25% higher melt rates and energy savings due to shorter charging cycles
- A reduction in melt loss due to less oxidation
- Less vehicle movements in the cast house
- Significantly reduced furnace and vehicle maintenance
- Integrated weighing technology to weigh individual items/ loads and batches, improving inventory control
- Precise Laser position control
- Safety Laser Scanners



# RiA Charge Cycle



# Hydro video of RiA Machine in Operation



At the Hydro foundry in Drunen in the Netherlands, old window frames, light poles, and car parts are melted and given new life

# Better charging increases melt efficiency and reduces metal loses



- Factors affecting melt efficiency:
  - ✓ Even load distribution in the furnace
  - ✓ Not blocking burners
  - ✓ Charging at the right time
- Estimate 5% energy savings and 0.3% reduction in metal loss.
- Less metal loss also equals to less dross generation and less waste landfilled.



# Why no Operator onboard?



Keeping the facilities most valuable assets out of harms way!

# 107 Fioscope In-Furnace References Worldwide, since 2022



**In-Furnace Cameras can be easily retrofit to existing furnaces**

**fioscope**  
in-furnace vision



Fioscope cameras occupy a small footprint on the furnace shell

Pneumatic and Electrical control boxes are compact

Utilities Required; Compressed Air Feed and Electrical Connection

# Fioscope Customers



# Expect the unexpected



**The ability to visualize or alert to potentially dangerous Events before they happen!**



## **What should you do?**

- Shut of the gas?
- Emergency Stop all Cast House Processes?
- Evacuate the facility?
- Change the furnace atmosphere?
- Vent the furnace?
- Auto - Call Emergency Responders?
- DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR!

## **What could you do?**

- Using visualization & AI-Control it can all be done before it's too late.





**Smart Air-cooled Cameras mounted In-Furnace identify scrap pile height, shape and progress**

## **Production Advantages**

Critical recharge time identification allows for shorter cycles, leading to energy savings and higher productivity.

## **Safety Advantages**

See what is going on inside of furnace, avoiding risky/ dangerous conditions.



# Autonomous Furnace Charging



## Charge at the earliest and safest time, every time

- Trigger charging machine cycle with Fioscope autonomous furnace charging
- Ensure no production time is lost
- Increase safety during the charging process
- Lower Energy Consumption
- Reduce Cycle Times

# Remote monitoring from a safe location



Operators can observe the Autonomous Furnace Charging and Skimming Cycles from a safe location.

Cameras mounted onboard the machines relay a live stream of the Furnace Charging and Skimming Cycles

Machines can be driven from the remote location using the Joystick controls





# In-Furnace Cameras for all applications



**Single Chamber**



**Multi Chamber**



**Decoating Technology**



**Tilt Rotary**





# RiA Skimming Machines



Designed for Skimming, Mixing, Stirring and Cleaning of Melting and Holding Furnaces

Increased staff safety through protected operator cabin (or NO Cabin) and safety laser scanners

Fully automated or autonomous skim cycle for shorter furnace cycle times

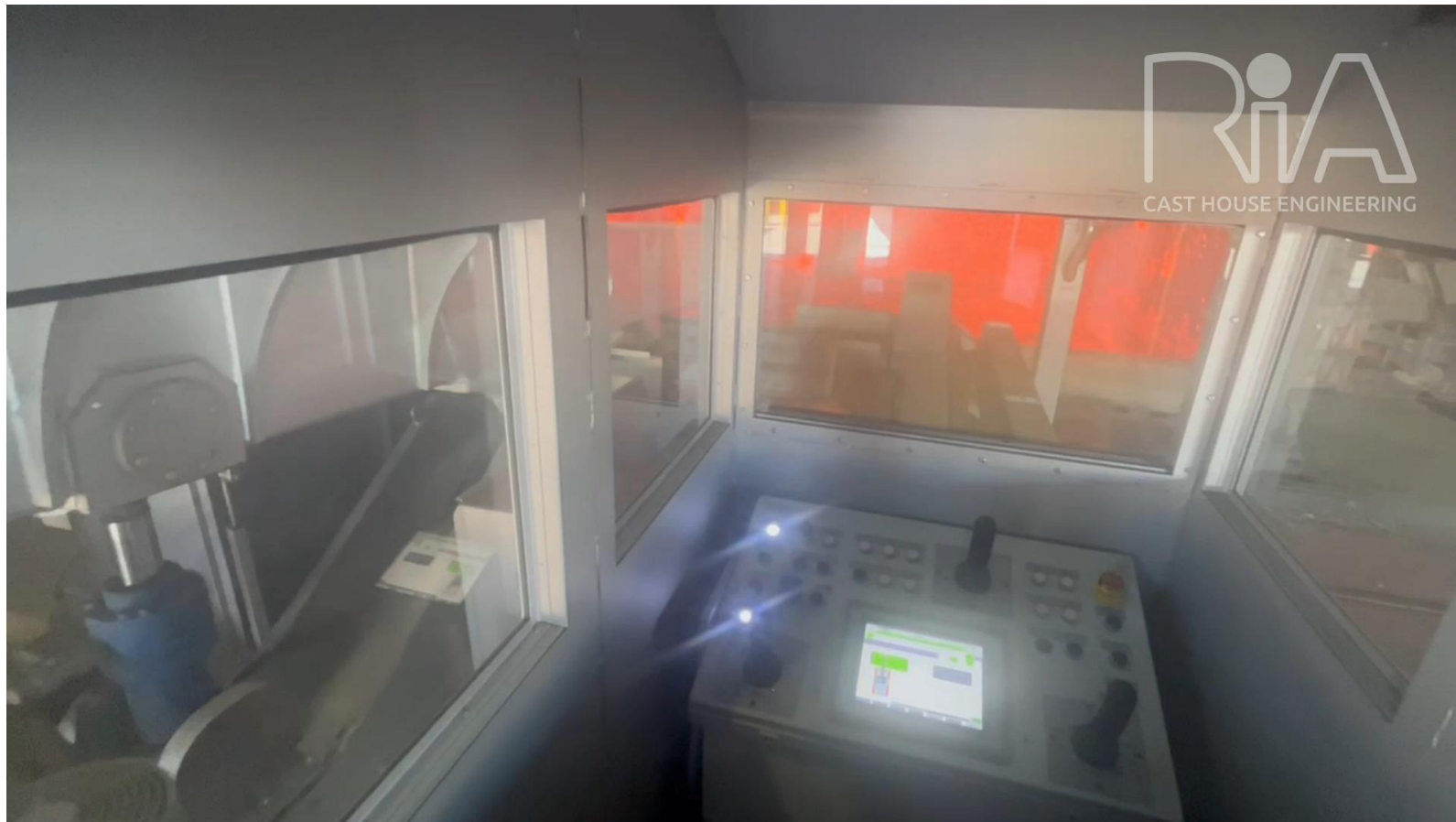
Protection of refractory lining by precise position and pressure control

Significantly reduced furnace and vehicle maintenance

Air cooled boom

In-Furnace Dross Processing

# Operatorless/hands free Operation



## Operator free Skimming and IFDP, approx. 10 mins





# Increased yields with additional Aluminium units remaining in the Furnace



WITHOUT IFDP



WITH IFDP



Less skimmed dross weight and volume (due to less aluminum)

Reduces transportation and processing emissions

Better overall recovery

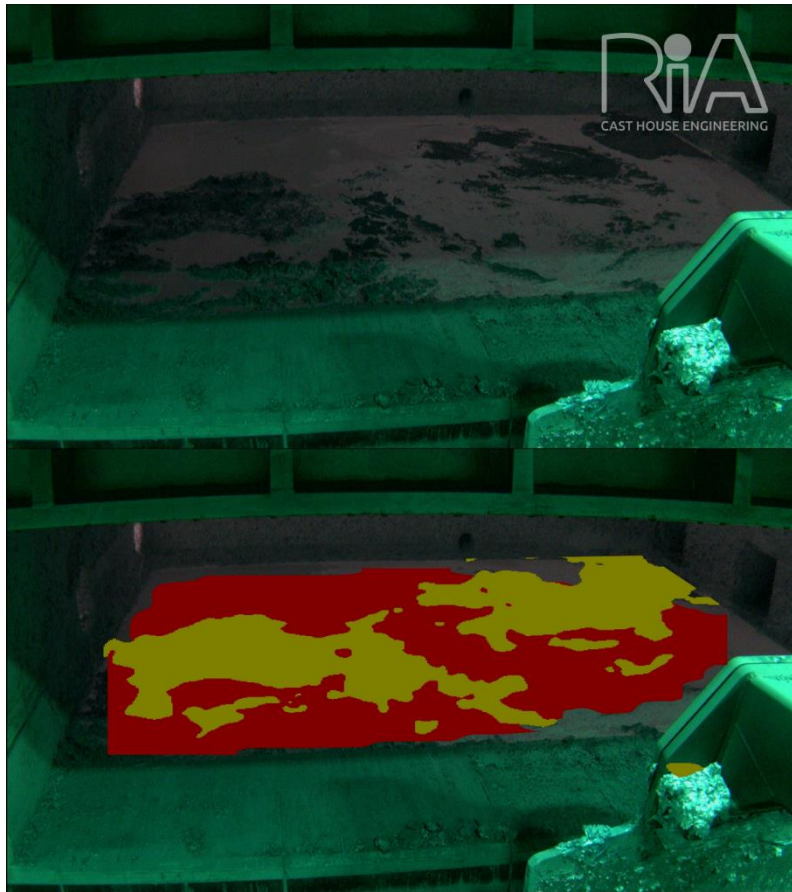
Reduces the need of “new” aluminum to be brought into the system.



# Load spreading captured by onboard Smart Cameras



# Dross Detection for Autonomous Skimming



**Smart On-Board Cameras identify dross coverage and its location**



## **Advantages**

Detection of dross

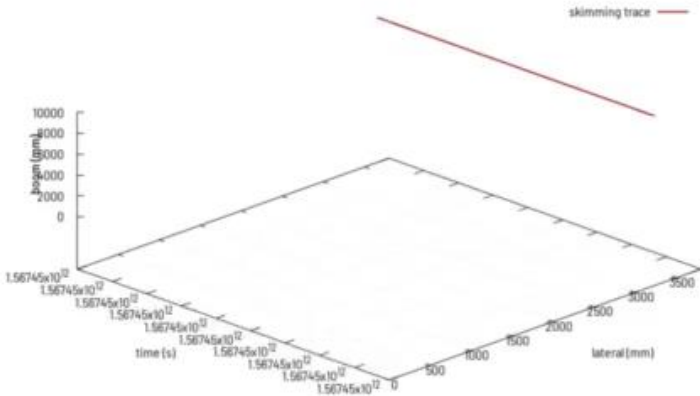
Only Skim where necessary

Re-Skim if the Dross moves

Faster and more precise than human operator

Repeatable

# Autonomous Skimming with Smart Cameras



# Benefits of using RiA/Fioscope technology



Increased **Plant Safety**



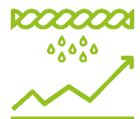
Increased **Plant Productivity**



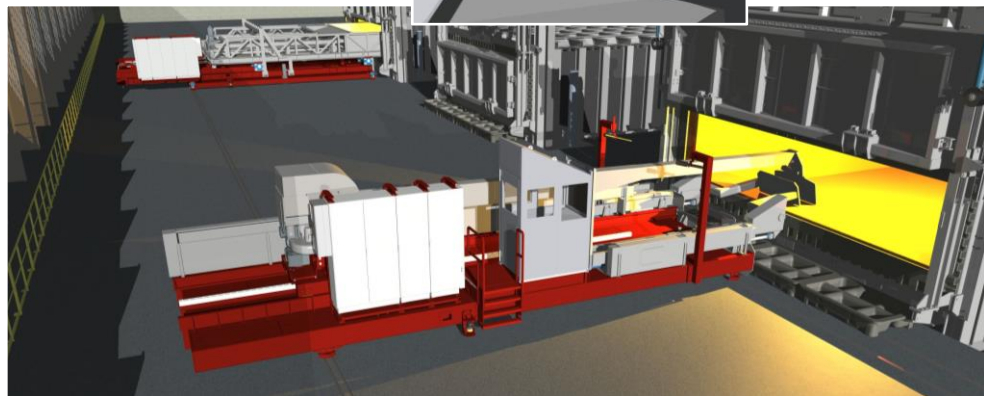
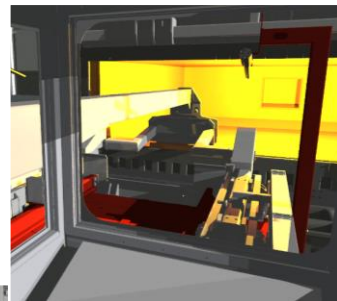
Increased **Refractory Life**



Fully **Autonomous Operation**



Reduced **Dross Generation** and Increased **Metal Recovery**







# Thank you!



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