



The Neustadt Bayernoil refinery

A FLIR INFRARED FURNACE CAMERA FOR HIGH TEMP INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS WATCHES HYDRO REFORMERS AT GERMAN BAYERNOIL REFINERY COMPLEX

Stable high temperatures and efficient combustion in refinery furnaces, heaters and boilers are mandatory for a continuous output of high-quality oil derivatives. An infrared camera for industrial high temperature applications in hazardous areas has been developed by FLIR to keep these installations up and running efficiently.

Installations at Bayernoil run at 24/7 and at 100% capacity to satisfy the current high demand for petroleum products. Hence the major importance of condition monitoring and preventive maintenance of furnaces and heat supply.

Super grade petrol and light fuel are the result of a reforming process; after desulphurisation, the refined oil passes into the hydroreformer for a chemical process during which low-octane petrol is converted into high-octane products by stripping the hydrogen out of the hydrocarbons or rearranging the composition of hydrocarbon molecules respectively. The reformer reactors need a constant, 24/7 supply of heat of up to 510 °C, which is provided by furnaces and carried by heat piping systems. Inspecting high temperature areas

While high temperature thermo elements only allow to measure exactly but very locally, infrared inspection over large surfaces enables to quickly check important parameters for a clean and safe production: are coking, dirt or oxide layers lowering the process temperature? What is the overall operating temperature inside? What is the effect on the surface walls?

Bayernoil has procured an infrared camera from FLIR designed to inspect industrial furnaces, heaters and boilers. The camera is built to allow looking through flames. Calibrated for measurements of up to 1,500 °C, the camera provides temperature reading across entire high-temperature surface areas, enabling a faster inspection in critical or potentially hazardous environments.



Holger Springer with his FLIR infrared camera at a furnace inspection window

"The reformers are grateful objects to inspect," says Holger Springer, Inspection Engineer at Bayernoil's maintenance department and infrared camera user.

"We use the cavity effects in the oven for a clear temperature readout," says Springer, who has a certification provided by the ITC, an independent, ISO-certified worldwide acting training institute.

Springer regularly inspects the 26 mostly different types of furnaces at the three Bayernoil sites. The FLIR furnace camera's protecting shield not only reflects the heat away from the camera and its user, but also entirely covers the size of the furnace's inspection windows.

The furnace camera can also be used to inspect the refractory in the outside walls of the furnaces. The inbuilt visible camera can be used to check the clean flame pattern inside the furnace, which proves the quality of the combustion process, and also to prevent flame impingement across the walls of the tubes.

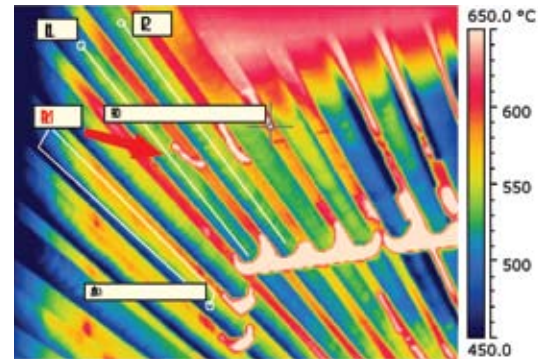
Contributing to production and safety Springer uses the FLIR Reporter™ software suite to gather and analyze his findings and to share them with the process safety, production and maintenance specialists of the plants, as different operational entities within the refinery are interested in measurement results to assess and optimize production.

The info gathered by the furnace camera on the thermal situation enables to :

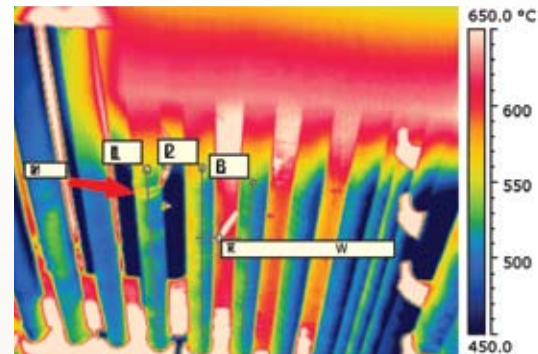
- determine when temp sensors need to be exchanged
- indicate if the temperature of the piping stays within acceptable limits
- provide information if productivity can be raised
- assess the condition of the burners to determine whether they have to be adjusted or cleaned

In an industrial environment where production capacity is often determined by piping temperature thresholds, the infrared cameras create additional demand: Holger Springer is often called to inspect other installations and piping at the site.

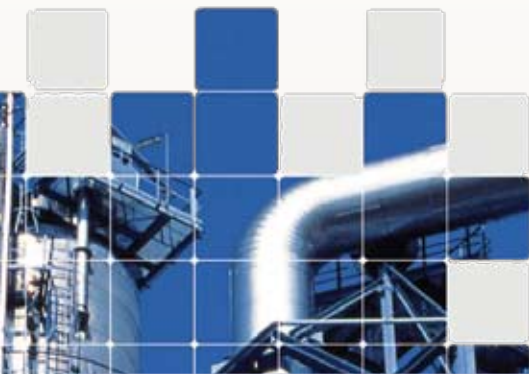
"The furnace camera, gives key information on the thermal load of furnace and piping installations. As such, it finds weak spots in our plants and contributes to operational safety of our furnaces" says Holger Springer, who expects the infrared camera to be amortized within two years.



Light temp deviation along ceiling probably due to deposits inside the piping



Visual and IR image of inner furnace piping: Mk2 shows a temp sensor fastener, not a hot spot cab le



The Bayernoil refinery complex is located in southern Germany and has three refinery, production and storage sites in the region between Munich, Nuremberg and Regensburg. It is owned by oil corporations OMV, Agip, BP and Ruhr Oel. Over 800 employees process annually 12m tonnes of crude oil that is refined into oil products. Safety and plant reliability are firmly integrated in the company's quality and production management.

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