Improvements in Saganoseki Flash Smelting Furnace Operation

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Abstract

Saganoseki Smelter, one of the largest Copper producers in Japan, currently operates single flash smelting furnace to produce 450,000 tons of new copper. The smelter used to employ two flash furnaces, and integrated two into one in 1996. Since then, various improvements to increase productivity have been executed for its facilities and technologies. To upgrade the operation efficiency, “Stability” was considered as the key issue, and the measures were also achieved to increase the operation and facility reliability. Currently, the furnace is running at 215 mtph feeding rate, while the furnace availability is maintained at 97%.

This paper outlines the recent improvements for increasing furnace productivity and efficiency.