

Groundbreaking technology:
Precision grinding breakthrough for a seamless belt that gives perfect results

Hutchinson needed a solution no one else could deliver: a precision-ground, seamless extra-wide steel belt for a Rotocure press.

Challenge

The steel belt Hutchinson was using was not smooth enough to leave a perfectly flat finish on the rubber sheet as it passed through the Rotocure press. The rubber was part of an isolating layer and needed to be absolutely smooth. However, because the belt was welded, the very slight unevenness in the surface left an imprint every time.

Quality
The welding seam consistently left an imprint on the rubber, meaning the product could not be processed to the standard required.

Flexibility
Hutchinson was trying to develop a completely new product but performance issues with their existing belts were holding them back.

Solution

IPCO used the high-tech precision grinder at its Forsbacka plant – the only one of its kind in the world – to develop a welded belt so smooth it leaves no trace, even in heated rubber. The belt was produced in Sweden and installed by experienced IPCO service engineers to ensure perfect running for the new product line.

Increased flexibility
New, more technically challenging products are within reach.

Unbeatable precision in production
With a Rotocure belt fully tailored to their requirements and precision ground for absolute smoothness, quality that was once impossible is now achievable for Hutchinson.

Minimal downtime
IPCO belt service arrangements mean preventive maintenance and fast repairs when needed to minimize downtime.

Hutchinson unlocks new product line with IPCO precision-ground belt

Hutchinson is a leading French multinational manufacturer of elastomer products and a subsidiary of the global energy corporation TotalEnergies. They design and produce advanced customized materials and components for the automotive and aerospace industries, among others.

The company was frustrated in its efforts to develop a new rubber sheeting coated isolation product using a Rotocure press. Their existing steel belts for Rotocure were not smooth enough to leave a completely flat finish – instead they left an imprint of the joint where the belt was welded.

When the company approached IPCO for help, it was clear that this was a job for the precision grinding facility at Forsbacka. The plant offers a unique combination of technologies, including laser and robotics, along with highly skilled engineers and experienced operators. At Forsbacka we can consistently produce 100-meter belts to around half the previous maximum tolerance.

System features

- **Rotocure belts**: high-strength martensitic steel belts (the IPCO 1650SM) with industry-beating precision grinding options.
- **Precision grinding**: a combination of laser and robotic technologies, precision parts and highly skilled engineers and technicians means we offer unmatched capabilities.
- **Replacement discs on stock**: time-sensitive disc delivery and grinding on site for repairs as needed.

The belt was installed and then adjusted on site and has been giving trouble-free running, allowing Hutchinson to process a completely new product.

Standard new belt checks at six months and a year, along with IPCO's responsive "discs on stock" repair service, ensure peace of mind for ongoing production.





IPCO: Your partner in precision-engineered steel belts

With more than 125 years of experience in steel belt production and supply, IPCO delivers proven solutions across every industrial process. Whenever new operating demands emerge, our engineering specialists have the technical capabilities to develop custom solutions to meet them.

Engineered for versatility

IPCO offers an extensive range of specialized steel grades, each with distinct performance characteristics. Whatever the sector or operational needs, we can provide the ideal belt configuration for your facility.

"The IPCO Rotocure steel belt played a key role in bringing our new product to life, providing the smooth, seamless finish required for its development."

Eric Gaboret – Maintenance Manager

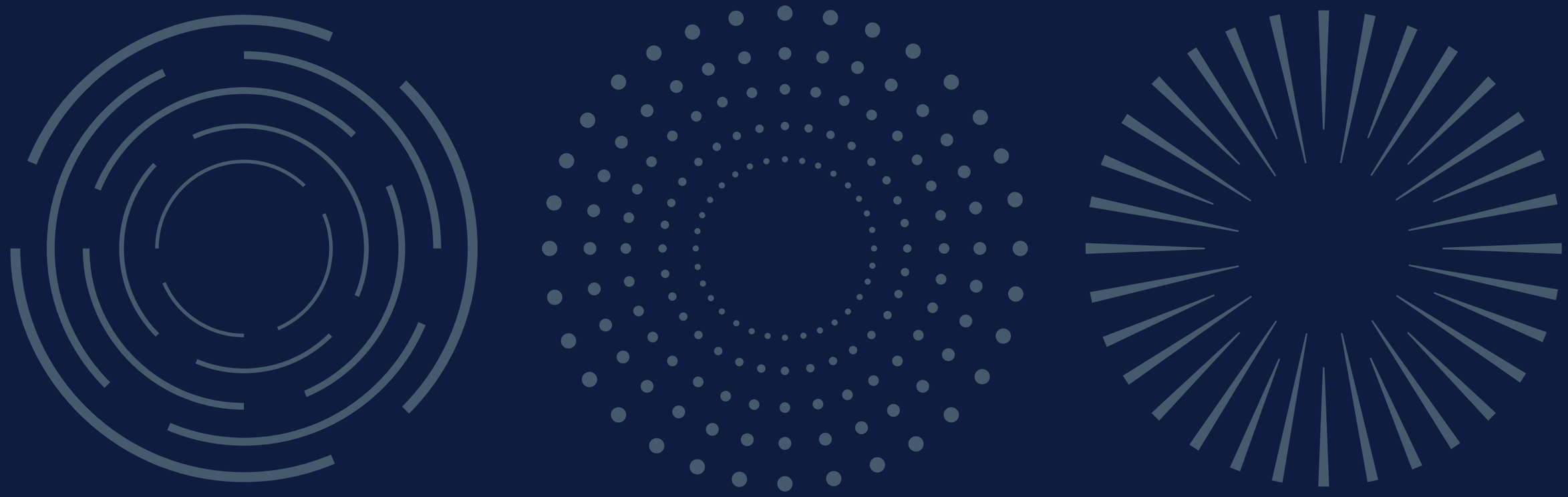
Steel belts for unmatched performance

The inherent qualities of steel and IPCO's expertise combine to make exemplary steel belts:

- Flat, hard, and smooth surface for a high-quality finish
- High thermal conductivity for efficient, controlled processing
- Strong and durable for maximum productivity
- Corrosion and wear resistant.

Premium quality Rotocure steel belts for rubber processing

As a world leader in steel belt technologies, IPCO supplies high-precision belts for continuous Rotocure vulcanization lines. The proven durability and reliable performance of our press belts make IPCO the preferred partner for OEMs and plant operators worldwide.



IPCO has a long history of delivering advanced technological solutions for various industrial processes. With over 125 years of experience in steel belt and manufacturing equipment, we continuously push the boundaries of innovation.

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