

GETTING BACK ON TRACK WITH RAILQ

Company Information: The Aluminum Company of America (Alcoa) is the world's leading aluminum producer, spanning 31 countries and providing services to several industries, including aerospace, automotive, packaging, construction and commercial transportation.

Six years ago, our plant was faced with the challenges of old equipment: around 60% of our production cranes are over 40 years old, which led to major crane alignment problems, resulting in squeaky wheels. Overall, we used to have a lot of plant-wide crane issues, and we were constantly changing wheels, cables and bearings. When the cranes went down, we stopped moving.



Konecranes technicians performed a RailQ runway survey, which showed us graphs of the railway alignment. That's when we found out that the wheels weren't the problem. We used to replace crane wheels fairly frequently, but RailQ showed that we needed to replace the crane rail in several bays and adjust the elevation. Since then, we haven't needed to replace any wheels.

As long as annual inspections continue, we can now expect crane wheels to last a long time. In any case, I'll be long gone by then! Konecranes workers, along with the RailQ survey, have really made a huge difference. In the past two years there have only been about three times when I've had to use my engineers to get a crane working again. Previously, it was every day. Now, we have hardly any unscheduled downtime.

June 2012

Konecranes is a world-leading group of Lifting Businesses™, serving a broad range of customers, including manufacturing and process industries, shipyards, ports and terminals. Konecranes provides productivity-enhancing lifting solutions as well as services for lifting equipment and machine tools of all makes. In 2011, Group sales totaled EUR 1,896 million. The Group has 11,700 employees at 609 locations in 47 countries. Konecranes is listed on the NASDAQ OMX Helsinki (symbol: KCR1V).

