

High Vacuum systems CASE STORIES

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*On better economy and working environment
using high vacuum extraction*

Atlas Copco AVOS (Örebro, Sweden)

Background and diagnosis:

Atlas Copco AVOS in Örebro manufactures rock drills for working both over and under ground. Most of their production orders require special adaptations. Customers expect a great deal of their drill rigs, and outside visitors come to the 20,000 m² factory floor practically on a daily basis.

Metal filings and waste fluids from the workshop machines are cleared away using compressed air, and also manually with a brush. Compressed-air cleaning does remove the metal chips and other residue, but it actually just moves it all to another place on the premises, where it remains until someone gets rid of it permanently. Moreover, there is a risk of eye injury when



metal dust is swirling around in the air. Some of the fluids removed by the compressed air evaporate into mist, which is also a health hazard to any machine operator who inhale it.

Compressed-air cleaning is also a very loud process, and the method does cause rather a high amount of wear on the machinery.



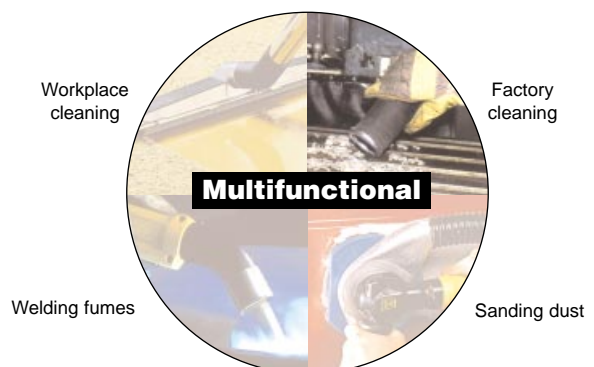
Prescription and treatment: Working together with Atlas Copco AVOS, we drew up guidelines for a solution based on high-vacuum extraction with the objective of improving the working environment, rendering the workshop cleaner, and reducing wear on the machinery.

The treatment began with a small-scale test. A high-vacuum unit was placed adjacent to the workshop. Several pre-separators, each one placed over a small container, are connected to the vacuum unit via a system. A hose and nozzle were then extended to each workplace, which effectively took care of metal chips and fluids.

Results and comments: Bengt Östås, responsible for improvements of the production process at Atlas Copco AVOS, noted three immediate advantages of the high-vacuum system. **1)** A cleaner working environment for everyone working on the factory floor. **2)** A cleaner and more welcoming place for visitors. **3)** Fewer repairs to machinery.

Bengt Östås concludes, "...another advantage of the system: it can easily be added to and adapted if circumstances change."

Would you like to know even more? Would you like to know about the technical solution in more detail? Please contact us and we'll tell you more!



This document is one in a series of case stories about high vacuum extraction. Would you like to read further examples of how we have been able to assist our customers? Please ask for a free subscription by contacting us at:

TEDAK AB, Svista, SE-635 02 Eskilstuna, Sweden
Tel: +46 16-160700 (Fax: +46 16-142627)