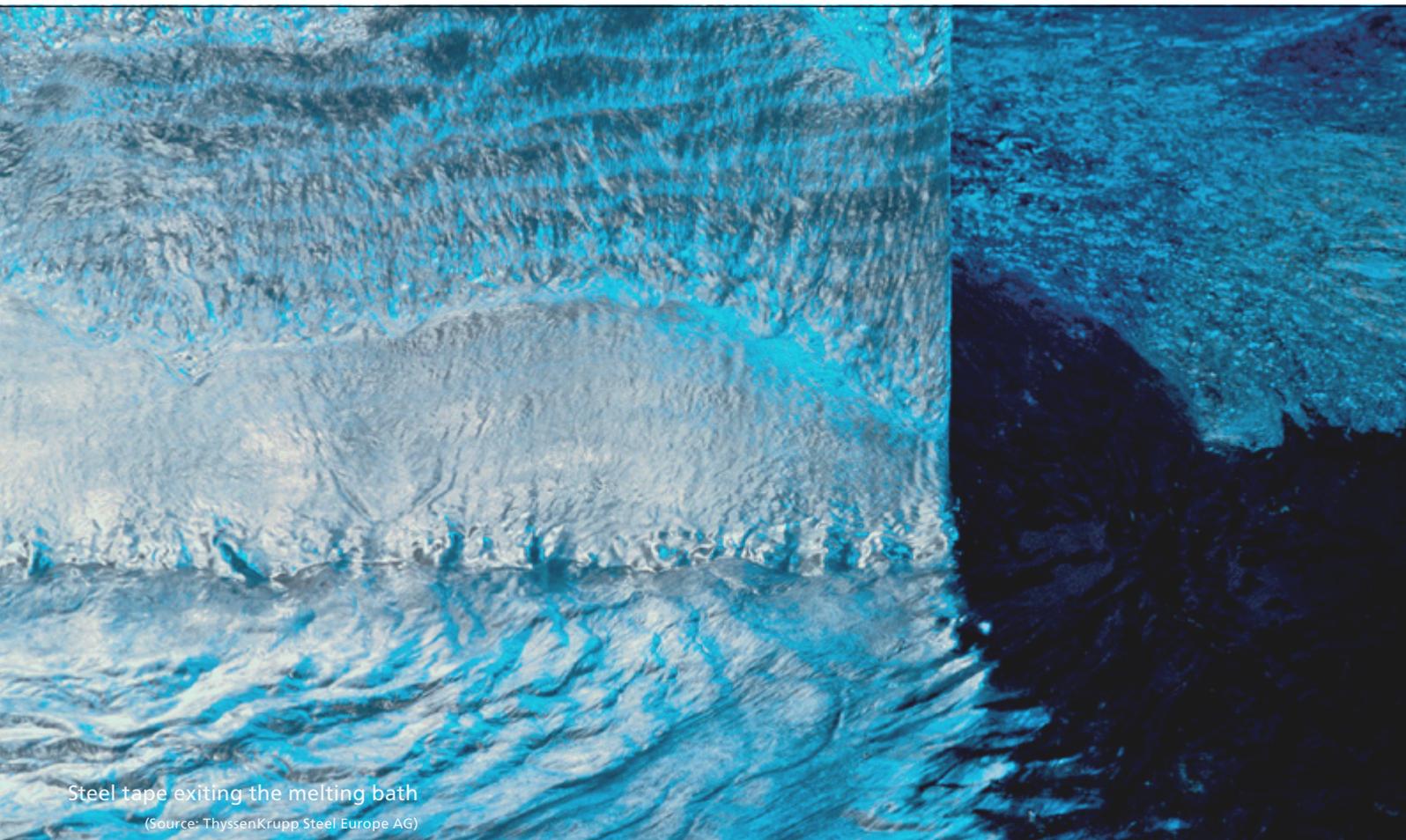


new@forster

New surface protection for Forster fuego light profiles

- Outstanding corrosion protection
- Harder surface
- Less abrasion
- Self-healing coating
- Ecologically sustainable

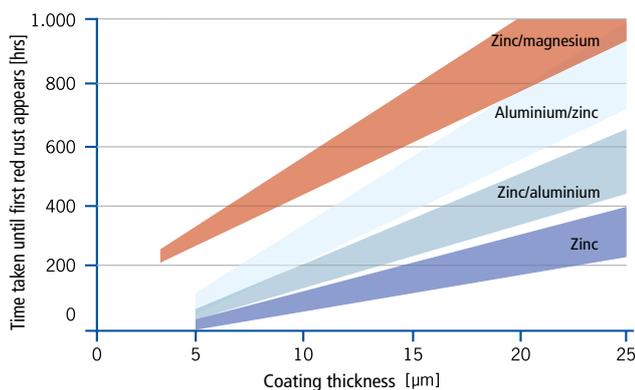


Steel tape exiting the melting bath
(Source: ThyssenKrupp Steel Europe AG)

Dear partners

New steel coating technologies conquer the market. As an innovative company, we integrate the most advantageous technological advances into our processes and are happy to pass on the resulting benefits to you. As part of one of these technological achievements, Forster fuego light profiles are now produced with zinc/magnesium (ZM) surface protection. This means that the GVGC coating will be entirely replaced. The result is that you benefit from:

- Profiles with excellent corrosion protection inside and out. That means outstanding all-round protection which is particularly useful when profiles are not processed immediately and are exposed to humidity, dampness or salty environments.
- A harder surface with less abrasion. As a result, you obtain much better formability and the cost of cleaning your plant is reduced.
- A self-healing coating. Small scratches at the cutting face or surface do not rust and are self-healing.
- Excellent weldability of the material.



Comparison of the time taken for corrosion to take place on materials with different surface coatings

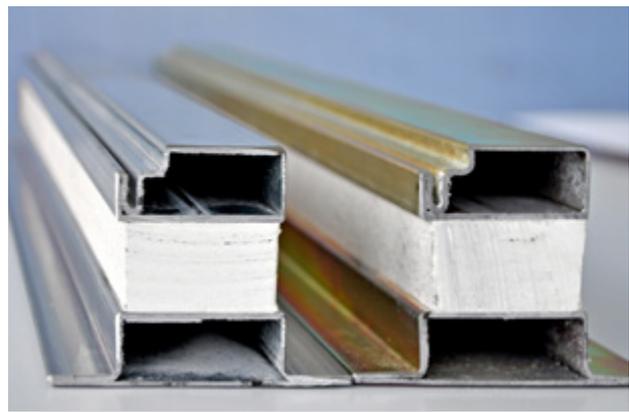
Source: Steel Information Centre, Düsseldorf

With this new process, we make a contribution to a sustainable environment. The manufacture of ZM profiles is environmentally benign and energy-efficient, and – due to the thin coating layer – requires less resource material; that is good for us and the eco-balance. The maxim "the thicker the coating, the better the corrosion protection" was true in the past. In the face of diminishing resources and rising energy costs, the ZM coating meets current environmental requirements as it provides ecological benefits but also has various advantages in its processing. It goes without saying that the zinc/magnesium coating does not contain any noxious components, conforms to the European Chemicals Regulation REACH (Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals) and is fully recyclable when applied as a coating to steel.

The changeover from GVGC to ZM will be carried out successively in the coming months; it will therefore not be possible to avoid some crossing over. For most profiles the changeover will have been completed by the beginning of next year. However, there will be no consequences for you, nor additional costs:

- The existing GVGC products and the new ZM profiles can be welded together without any problems, including applications in the same element.
- You can process the profiles in the usual way, without any changeover or adaptation. For this reason, we are not offering to take back or exchange existing profile stock.
- Initially, only products from the Forster fuego light system are affected.
- The changeover to ZM does not affect our numerous technical approvals. All approvals will remain valid.

And last but not least, in spite of the advantages of these new coatings, there is no change in prices for you.



left: ZM-coated profile, right: GVGC profile

With this changeover we are not just following a volatile trend, but responding to change requirements in a rapidly growing market which is nearly doubling in size annually. We were able to establish for ourselves the outstanding weldability and diverse processing options of the system in our own comprehensive field tests so that we can assure you that it performs as promised and is in no way inferior to the previous system. This is proof that with the ZM coating, we have made the right step into the future.

We are happy to answer any questions you may have and also refer you to the brochure "Zinc/magnesium coated metal sheeting" by the Steel Information Centre, DE-40039 Düsseldorf, www.stahl-info.de.