

A multipurpose continuous processing line able for heat treating and hot dip coating a steel strip comprising: - an annealing section (1) for heating the steel strip to a predetermined annealing temperature and for maintaining the steel strip at said annealing temperature, - a first transfer section (2), - an overaging section (3) able to maintain the temperature of the steel strip between 300° C and 700 °C, - a second transfer section (4) able to adjust the temperature of the steel strip to allow the hot dip coating of the strip and, - a hot dip coating section (5), wherein the first transfer section (2) comprises, in sequence, cooling means (21) and heating means (22).