



Manufacturing leaders call for greater action to support steel industry

Manufacturing leaders said greater action was required to support the embattled steel industry, after demands for lower business rates were ignored in George Osborne's Budget.

Steelmakers had wanted plant and machinery removed from the calculation of rates, claiming it penalised companies that invested heavily in equipment.

Terry Scuoler, chief executive of manufacturers' association EEF said, "My initial response to the Budget is one of relief. It's not been a bad day for business. But we have measurable disappointment that manufacturers did not get business rate relief".

The government said it would support the creation of an enterprise zone in Port Talbot, the South Wales town home to the UK's largest steelworks where Indian owner Tata Steel is laying off 750 workers.

Following lobbying by the Welsh government, investors there will be offered tax breaks.



Mr. Scuoler said the model could be introduced to other industrial areas facing seeing significant challenges, but the steel sector was still in great pain and needs more tender loving care from the government.

At an emergency summit with ministers in October, reform rates were among key demands from the steel industry, which was in crisis and had shed thousands of jobs over the past year. It claimed some European competitors enjoyed lower business rates.

Gareth Stace, of UK Steel, said "We have continued to warn that without swift action the steel industry will suffer, and this was

highlighted again with the loss of jobs at Outokumpu, a stainless steel manufacturer in Sheffield.

"This was a sorely disappointing Budget for steelworkers. The march of the steelmakers will continue to be along a rocky road, with steel jobs and steel communities under threat of more pain," said Roy Rickhuss, general secretary of Community, the steelworkers' union.

Both the trade union and lobby group urged the government to do more to stem the flow of steel dumped at unfairly low prices.

However, EEF welcomed other measures that should bring some comfort to heavy industry. These included a move to shield energy-intensive industries, such as chemicals, glass and cement, from increases in green taxes.

As it sought to rebalance the UK economy, the government also said it would extend an enterprise zone in Sheffield in a bid to boost the area's expertise in advanced manufacturing.

Nepal's largest iron ore reserves found in Nawalparasi



A huge iron ore reserves has been found in Dhaubadhi VDC of Nawalparasi, according to a government's survey team. The area could have an estimated 8 million tonnes of iron ore reserve, making it Nepal's biggest iron ore mines.

Narayan Baskota, geologist at the Department of Mines and Geology said that, "The iron reserve has been spread over 100 hectares in Pokhari village of Dhaubadhi."

According to him, the reserve has been detected over 8-10 km radius and is underground 250 meters. "It's Nepal's biggest reserve discovered so far."

TMK-ARTROM orders Heat Treatment Line for Tubes from SMS Group

TMK-ARTROM, located in Slatina, Romania, has placed an order with SMS group to supply a heat treatment line for tubes. The plant serves for the production of seamless tubes, OCTG pipes (Oil Country Tubular Goods) as well as high-strength tubes for mechanical applications. The annual capacity is 160,000 tons. With the installation of this plant, TMK-ARTROM is strengthening its presence on the market with tubes for mechanical applications and for oil and gas exploration. The plant is scheduled to commence operation in the second quarter of 2017.

The heat treatment line ordered by TMK-ARTROM consists of an austenitizing furnace with walking beam transport system, a quenching head, a quenching tank, a walking beam tempering furnace and a cooling bed. The line allows carrying out



various process steps, such as quenching, tempering and normalizing.

The heat treatment line will be able to treat tubes up to a wall thickness of 60 millimeters. Thanks to the high product flexibility, the plant is also suitable for the cost-effective processing of small batch sizes and different product groups. Eco-friendly recuperative burners with very low nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions in the furnaces allow fuel savings of up to five percent compared with conventional burners.