

Danieli Corus Commissions India's Largest Blast Furnace

Danieli Corus BV from IJmuiden, The Netherlands, has commissioned the Greenfield Blast Furnace No. 5 built for SAIL (Steel Authority of India Limited) at their Rourkela (Odisha, India) steel plant. This blast furnace was built by a consortium consisting of Danieli Corus and Tata Projects Limited and is currently India's largest Blast Furnace. The first hot metal was tapped after 27 hours.

It is a major milestone for Danieli Corus for having built the largest operating Blast Furnace, according to the "Hoogovens" philosophy, in this important market. The Furnace is named after the Hindu goddess Durga and was designed to European standards and based on European technology. It was built to produce around 8,000 tonnes of hot metal per day for a twenty year campaign and is part of a 1.75 Million Euro expansion program at the Rourkela Steel Plant. A "pooja" was performed as part of the commissioning of Blast Furnace No. 5 ("Durga") - according to Hindu tradition, coconuts were cracked and the contents sprinkled over the Furnace's shell to honour the Goddess Durga. Engineering, supplies and construction of the Furnace have taken five years.

This is the fourth greenfield Blast Furnace project completed by Danieli Corus in India and based on the "Hoogovens" philosophy.



Previously, three smaller Blast Furnaces were built for private companies, of which the one operated by Jindal Steel & Power Ltd. has been the country's best performing Blast Furnace over the past years. In addition, Danieli Corus has executed substantial revamp and repair projects on the Blast Furnaces operated by Tata Steel at their Jamshedpur plant. An order for a fifth greenfield project in India was received from the mining company

NMDC in 2011. This company is diversifying into the steel industry and is developing a new integrated plant at Nagarnar. Danieli Corus is currently building the Blast Furnace, which will be larger than the "Durga" Furnace operating at Rourkela. This Furnace is expected to be commissioned in 2015.

Steel demand in India is vast, given the country's economic growth of 5.3% p.a. Steel consumption per capita remains substantially lower than that in, for example, China. Infrastructural and urban development projects feed India's hunger for steel and the country remains an important market for Danieli Corus, accounting for around 50% of the company's turnover. Danieli Corus India currently employs 45 people and continues to grow. The two most recent greenfield Blast Furnace projects in India have realised about 350,000 man hours (equivalent to more than 200 man years) of work to the EU.

