



Oxlean to invest in Walker steel plant expansion

Oxlean Manufacturing LLC announced plans to invest USD 2.1 million to expand its steel fabrication site in Walker, which it acquired earlier this year.

Mr. Dale Huval President and CEO of Oxlean said, "The company is expanding the manufacturing facilities on its five acre site by 75% to 28,000 square feet of production area. Equipment installation and initial construction activity are already under way at Oxlean, with the entire expansion project to be completed by the Q3 of 2016."

Mr. Huval said, "The project will include the installation of advanced robotic technology, along with the use of affiliated, sophisticated software to expand and modernize the company's production of steel products.

He said, "During this holiday season, on behalf of the ownership and management of

Oxlean Manufacturing LLC, we are thankful for our many employees, customers, lenders and trade partners who have helped us get off the ground."

Founded in 2013, Oxlean specializes in structural steel applications for the petrochemical industry, oil and gas production firms, and commercial development customers.

Oxlean will retain its 27 existing jobs, and create 73 new jobs at the facility with an average annual salary of USD 55,000, plus benefits. Louisiana Economic Development estimates the expansion will result in an additional 122 new indirect jobs, for a total of more than 190 new jobs in Livingston Parish and the surrounding area.

The company has begun hiring and will add 23 new jobs by the end of 2015 while reaching full employment of all 73 new jobs



over the next decade.

LED's business expansion and retention group began discussion the possibility of an expansion with Oxlean in July 2014. To secure the project, the state offered Oxlean an incentive package including USD 200,000 performance-based Economic Development Award Program forgivable loan to offset building and site improvement costs, along with LED's FastStart workforce development program, and Quality Jobs and industrial Tax Exemption programs.

Tata Steel unveils a new range of breakthrough XPF steels

Tata Steel has unveiled a new range of breakthrough steels aimed at helping car makers reduce the weight of undercarriages and increase fuel efficiency

The new suite of hot rolled sheet steel products XPF steels (eXtra Processing Formability) are to become commercially available in early 2015. They were developed by Tata Steel's research and development teams at the company's IJmuiden plant in the Netherlands, where the products will also be manufactured.

XPF steels offer vehicle manufacturers the opportunity to make chassis components that are 10% lighter and to reduce component manufacturing costs by up to 50%. This is because the ease with which they can be formed is combined with strength to an unprecedented degree. The XPF range addresses the known challenges of current high strength steels in terms of forming and manufacturing by combining the mechanical strength and fatigue resistance that chassis designers require with a formability that provides even greater freedom to reduce both parts count and cost as well as vehicle weight.

Mr. Henrik Adam, Chief Commercial Officer of Tata Steel's European operations, said that "The XPF range is a further



demonstration of Tata Steel's focus on providing advanced products for all vehicle applications. These new steels will enable designers to be even more innovative in creating the next generation of vehicles and we believe they promise a major breakthrough in automotive structural materials technology."

The best of modern steelmaking is dedicated to constantly bringing new products to market with improved characteristics that give customers competitive advantages. In recent decades there has been an increasing proliferation of enhanced, sophisticated steels High Strength Low Alloy, Dual Phase and Hot Forming steels to name just a few.

Tata Steel's XPF range represents a significant new contribution to this trend. Automakers need new steels that reduce vehicle weight while maintaining high safety levels in order to help increase fuel efficiency.

New steel products combining strength and formability have helped carmakers significantly reduce weight in the structural and external areas of car bodies. Engineers have been able to reduce the number of parts used (lowering manufacturing costs) and the weight of the parts across multiple component assemblies. XPF steels are now poised to take these enhancements into the area of vehicle chassis without compromising vehicle safety or compliance with environmental standards.

Mr. Ashley Wilkinson, Tata Steel's European Sales Director for Automotive, said that "The new XPF steel family is a strong example of our range of advanced products that enable automotive manufacturers to find their preferred balance between performance, weight and cost. As already proven in body in white with products like MagiZinc and Hyper Form and in seating with dual phase steels ranging up to 1000MPa, Tata Steel has the expertise to offer the lowest Total Cost of Ownership⁵ in the chassis area."