



## Industry Opposes EU Tariff on Steel Fasteners



Recently Chinese industry association, strongly opposed European Union's decision to extend an anti-dumping duty on imports of steel fasteners from China.

China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Machinery and Electronic Products, a non-government organisation, urged the EU to respect the rules of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and rectify its practices.

The EU on March 27 announced its decision to re-impose the duty of as many as

74.1 per cent of imports from China for certain steel fasteners. "There is a likelihood of recurrence of dumping to the Union market, should the measures be allowed to lapse," the European Commission said in a statement.

The EU imposed the anti-dumping duty for five years in January 2009, prompting the Chinese government to file a complaint against the bloc at the WTO. WTO in 2011 ruled against the EU measures. As a response, the EU reduced the levies to an average of 54.1 per cent from 77.5 per cent in 2012.

## Zenith Steel Signs Contract with Primetals Technologies



Zenith Steel (Changzhou Zhongtian Iron & Steel) in Changzhou, Jiangsu Province, China, has signed a contract with Primetals Technologies to revamp a complete wire-rod outlet to improve the quality and range of its products. For increased cooling capacity, the wire-rod mill project will include upgrading the existing Morgan Stelmor conveyor with the first Optimesh system in China to ensure cooling uniformity for high carbon products in fast cooling mode. The revamped mill will operate at an increased speed of 110 m/s. Located in

Changzhou, the mill is expected to be commissioned in early 2016. This is the fifth contract with this customer for Primetals Technologies and its predecessor companies.

The Optimesh system controls the air distribution across the width of the Stelmor conveyor, ensuring uniform cooling of the rings for consistency of both mechanical properties and metallurgical structure. The contract's scope of supply also includes a prefinishing mill, shear, Morgan Vee No-Twist Mill, a Morgan Intelligent Pinch Roll, laying head and water boxes. The revamped mill for this privately-owned, mid-sized steelmaker will be able to roll rod ranging in diameter from 5.5 mm to 20 mm. In addition, Primetals Technologies is providing an integrated solution with electric and automation upgrades for the mill. No-Twist and Stelmor are registered trademarks of Primetals Technologies and/or its subsidiaries in some countries.

## Iron ore Demand in China to be Weak - CISA



As steel demand in Chinese economy contracts, iron ore demand in China, the world's largest buyer of the steel-making raw material, is expected to remain weak according to the China Iron & Steel Association.

As China's steel demand drops this year, cuts to output will increase, reducing demand for iron ore, the group said in a monthly statement recently that summarized trends in a local price index. Iron ore prices won't rebound as the oversupply will persist, according to the association's website statement.

Iron ore sank below \$50 a metric ton recently on concern surging low-cost supply from the largest miners including BHP Billiton Ltd. will boost a global surplus just as demand in China falters. Li Xinchuang, the association's deputy secretary-general, told a conference in Perth, Australia, in March that steel consumption in China has peaked and output will shrink this year. Policy makers in China cut interest rates last month to spur growth and followed with an easing of property rules.

"In April, it's expected that China's growth measures will have a more obvious effect," the association said. "This may improve steel demand and production, though not significantly. Demand for iron ore will remain weak."

## China Steel Output Slides to Worst in 20 Years



China's crude steel output fell in the first three months of the year, the first decline over that period in 20 years, as the country grew at the slowest pace since the global recession.

Crude steel production from January to March slid 1.7 percent from a year earlier to 200.1 million metric tons, according to National Bureau of Statistics data released recently in Beijing. First quarter output hasn't contracted since 1995.

Falling production in the world's largest steelmaker reflects the country's slowing pace of construction and sliding exports. Output is poised to fall further as the government tries to trim overcapacity and cut pollution in its drive to shift the world's second-biggest economy toward consumption and services.

"Given that China has been closing down some of the steel mills, the drop is less than we expected," said Helen Lau, a metals and mining analyst at Argonaut Securities Ltd. in Hong Kong. "The less profitable and higher polluting ones are shutting, but the larger ones are taking their market share."

The country's gross domestic product in the three months through March rose 7 percent from a year earlier, the weakest pace since 2009, the statistics bureau said. That matches the median forecast in a Bloomberg survey, as well as the leadership's full-year target.

This section is a compilation from various company press releases, business dailies & trade publications.

## SMS Siemag Commissions Continuous Slab Caster at Puyang Steel

SMS Siemag Technology (Beijing) Co., Ltd, China, has successfully put a continuous caster for medium-sized slabs into operation at the Wuan City works of Hebei Puyang Iron and Steel Co., Ltd. (Puyang Steel), China.

Puyang Steel is extending its slab production to include above all high grades, such as peritectic, microalloyed and high-strength steels, high-carbon and boron-alloyed steels, high-quality steels and pipeline grades.

The single-strand continuous slab caster is designed for a yearly production of 1.2 million tons of slabs with thicknesses between 150 and 180 millimeters and widths between 1,000 and 2,300 millimeters. The caster has been prepared for a future retrofit to twin-strand casting (two narrow slabs simultaneously in one strand).

The supply of the continuous casting plant included the complete plant and process technology, as well as X-Pact® electrical and automation systems complete with the technological process models (level 2). The caster is equipped with the technological process models Mold Monitoring System (MMS), Hydraulic Mold Oscillator (HMO), Remote Adjustable Mold (RAM) and dynamic soft reduction. The technology packages make it possible to cast the large variety of steel grades and ensure the manufacture of slabs with high surface and internal quality.

The continuous slab caster was installed in an existing building (brown field). The existing crane systems were retained. Due to the building situation, SMS did not plan a ladle turret, but instead developed a tailor-made ladle car concept. The containment



zone has a very small main radius of only 6.5 meters.

The good cooperation with the customer was characterized by straightforwardness, few interfaces and efficient communication. All this resulted in a steep start-up curve. Already on the fifth production day, 50 heats were cast in one sequence.

"The cooperation with SMS was very positive. The technical know-how impressed us. This was a very good basis for implementing our wishes and demands. This was done in a highly flexible and above all economical way," says Dr. Cao Ligu, Vice President of Puyang Steel. Puyang Steel is one of China's leading private steel makers.

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