



MMK's Record-breaking Year



Russian steelmaker OJSC Magnitogorsk Iron and Steel Works (MMK) claims that a number of its production facilities and plants set local records last year. According to the company, it achieved record production of cast iron in its eight blast furnaces, producing 10.28Mt and its steelmaking plant demonstrated its best results since 2007 and its second best since 1991 (output of 13.03Mt). The company's oxygen converter plant also achieved record results, according to MMK, producing over 10Mt of steel, its highest output since 2007.

MMK claims that its coke-chemical plant produced 'approximately 5.6Mt of coke in 2014, its highest recorded volume since 2004 and its second best result ever.

The company's long products division was also breaking production history. For the first time since Italy's Danieli commissioned its new rolling mills in 2005, it produced over 1.84Mt of hot-rolled products. MMK's three state-of-the-art rolling mills are currently loaded and supply high-quality long products to MMK-Metiz and the construction sector

Baosteel / WISCO Merger \ Rumours Denied



Baosteel has denied rumours of a merger between itself and the Wuhan Iron and Steel Company (WISCO). While many industry observers thought that such a merger would fit in nicely with China's plan of building three to five ultra-large steel conglomerates by 2025, the Chinese government has not expressed any intentions in this direction or held discussions with either WISCO or Baosteel, it is claimed.

SSAB's Schmitt Elected AISI Chairman

The Board of Directors of the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) has elected Chuck Schmitt, president of SSAB America, to serve as chairman of the Institute until May 2016. Described by AISI president and CEO Thomas J Gibson as a strong and passionate advocate for policies that will help move the steel industry forward, Mr Schmitt said, "While we've made measurable strides as an industry since the recession, we still have work to do."

He said he was confident that the AISI would continue to strengthen the role of steel in the manufacturing sector and ensure that it remains the backbone of the American economy.

Other AISI appointments included Sean Donnelly, president and CEO of Arcelor Mittal Dofasco, who was elected to the board of directors; and Mario Longhi, president and



CEO of US Steel Corporation who was elected to the board of directors and appointed chairman of the Policy and Planning Committee.

Nalco Company's global vice president (corporate accounts) was also elected to the board of directors alongside USS-POSCO Industries' president, Yeoung Tae Yoo.

NLMK Signs Agreement for New Lipetsk Gas Cleaning System

NLMK Group has signed an agreement with Luxembourg-based Paul Wurth SA for the engineering and supply of equipment for a new gas cleaning unit at the company's 3.2Mt/yr blast furnace 6 located at the steelmaker's Lipetsk production site. Construction of the new unit will begin in Q4 2015 and finish

sometime between Q1 and Q2 of 2016.

NLMK will also begin testing a top-pressure recovery turbine (TRT) designed to use excess blast furnace gas pressure. The turbine is currently under construction. According to Konstantin Lagutin, vice president for investment projects at NLMK, said that the project was part of the company's Strategy 2017 and was designed to enhance production efficiency and further develop the company's inherent potential.

"The new unit will provide a five-fold improvement in blast furnace gas cleaning efficiency and channel it to the green energy facility, the top-pressure recovery turbine



designed for electric energy generation through utilisation of excess gas pressure that is currently under construction."

The TRT currently under construction behind Blast Furnace, 6 will be the second in the new TRT station complex. The already-installed TRT-1 utilizes gasses from blast furnace 7 and is currently undergoing hot testing.

The two turbines are designed to have a combined output of 28MW, increasing the company's electric power self-sufficiency from 54% to 56% and reducing its dependence on external suppliers of electric power by 200 million kWh per year, which is around 6% of the current purchase volume.