

# Primetals Technologies Sells First EAF Condition Monitoring System to North American Höganäs



- New system monitors electric arc furnace aggregates
- Real-time reporting notes changes outside key parameters
- Information broker offers remote data access

The CMS notes changes outside the key parameters and reports them in real time. In addition, an information broker PC offers remote data access. The system will be installed and commissioned in June during a furnace control system upgrade.

A producer of metal powders for specialty parts and tools, North American Höganäs will use the new system on its 50 metric ton electric arc furnace in western Pennsylvania to monitor, among other performance indicators, its utilization index, power on times and energy consumption in real time. The system also surveys the electrode control system's hardware and software, as well as the hydraulic system, furnace switchgear, transformer tap changer and other parts. Variations outside recommended ranges will be reported to the supervisor through a mobile application or email for faster response times. In addition, the customer will receive regular reports on the furnace performance with a detailed trend analysis of the furnace characteristics and appropriate expert recommendations.

This new system offers predictive as well as preventive maintenance to reduce the cost of regular maintenance cycles. Through a mobile dashboard application, operators can access an overview of the furnace's automation and controls system. Should any aspect of the system require attention, they can alert the appropriate on-site staff or contact Primetals Technologies service personnel for remote adjustment to prevent or minimize downtime. The system includes an add-on to the HMI for the electrode regulator itself, as well as an "information broker" PC to receive information feeds from all monitoring systems and then offer remote access to that data.

Primetals Technologies and its predecessor companies have had a longstanding relationship with North American Höganäs that goes back nearly 15 years.

EAF condition monitoring system includes a mobile dashboard application for remote monitoring of key systems' performance.

**A** new system to monitor key parameters of an electric arc furnace has had its first global sale after a successful pilot installation in Germany. North American Höganäs in Hollsopple, Pennsylvania, USA has purchased the condition monitoring system (CMS) and service, together with an upgrade of its existing Electrode Regulation system.

## OECD Confirms the Global Steel Market is Barely Growing

**L**ike most governmental, or worse intergovernmental, bodies the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development is more dedicated to talking shop than legislating and a report following the recent meeting of the OECD Steel Committee is no exception. Long on talk and short on hard recommendations.

As a snapshot of the current, global steel market it deserves a pause and review even if its recommendations are likely to be largely ignored by those governments that can most have any beneficial impact on the market. Their first finding and this will come as no surprise to anyone in the industry, is global apparent steel use has nearly ground to a halt in 2015.

According to the OECD's March 2015 "Interim Economic Assessment," the effects

of lower oil prices and monetary policy easing have led to a slight improvement in economic growth prospects in the major economies but the near term outlook is still one of reduced world GDP growth.

### Minuscule Growth

Global crude steel production grew by only 1% in 2014, driven by China's slowdown and modest growth in developed economies. In the Q1 of 2015, global crude steel production decreased by 1.8%, while Chinese crude steel production in the Q1 of 2015 fell by 1.7%, reaching 811.5 million tonnes in annualized terms. In the rest of the world, crude steel production was 810.8 million mt in the Q1 of 2015, in annualized terms, down 1.9% compared to the previous year. Looking forward, global apparent steel use (of finished steel products) is expected to

grow by only 0.5% in 2015 and by 1.4% in 2016, after 2014 when it grew by an equally anaemic 0.6%.

### Too Much Investment

Too much new steel investment continues to be made, often aided and abetted by governments even though overcapacity is chronic globally and severe in markets where normal market forces do not provide counterbalancing controls.

As a result, steel related trade actions are on the rise, with complaints accounting for as much as 25% of the total number of complaints brought to the WTO in recent years. This isn't going to get any better in 2015-16 and will create distortions in markets as producers switch their sales focus in response to legislation.