

Essar Steel India Recognised for Safety Leadership



Essar Steel India has been recognised for Safety Leadership for the second year in a row by the World Steel Association. Declaring the final scoring of the 31 submissions received by the Worldsteel Safety Excellence Recognition Programme 2015, Mr Arne Haferkorn, Chairman of the Judging Panel said, "I am delighted to announce that your (Essar Steel India's) submission, 'Implementation of Process Safety Management (PSM)', has been recognised in

the Safety Leadership category."

Mr Madhu Vuppuluri, CEO of Essar Steel Minnesota, received the award on behalf of Essar Steel India.

Essar Steel India is the only Indian company in recent times to have received this recognition for two consecutive years. Its PSM culture score evaluated through a third-party audit improved from 55% in 2010 to 92% in 2014! The PSM project at Essar Steel India incorporated several safety initiatives and aimed at involving all employees and

contractors. The initiatives include an online portal, campaigns, screening of video films and a Safety Rally that brought together 3,500 employees.

Mr Dilip Oommen, CEO & MD, Essar Steel India, said "We are happy to be recognised for our safety practices. We follow PSM rigorously. It is part of our standard operating procedure in all our activities. It is propagated through extensive employee engagement, and awareness and training programmes. Implementation of PSM in an integrated steel plant like ours not only ensures safety of operation but also secures critical assets."

Essar Steel's safety management system has won several accolades this year, including the Ispat Suraksha Puraskar awarded by the Joint Committee on Safety, Health & Environment in Steel Industries (JCSSI), the Manufacturing Today Excellence in Safety Award 2014 Large Enterprises, the Safety Innovation Award 2014 from The Institution of Engineers (India), and the Golden Peacock Award for Occupational Health & Safety.

SAIL Invests Rs 2,600 Crore in Rourkela for New Unit

Domestic steel giant SAIL is investing over Rs 2,600 crore for installing a three million tonnes per annum facility for hot rolled (HR) coils at its Rourkela plant to make auto-grade and special steel products. The Maharatna firm has awarded the contract for setting up this hot strip mill to a consortium led by Mitsubishi and Larsen & Toubro, a source said.

The facility will produce high quality HR coils, including high strength API grades, auto body grades and other special steels, the source added. Recently, Steel Secretary Rakesh Singh said that under SAIL's modernisation and expansion programme (MEP), various projects have been initiated, including this unit. Singh holds additional charge as SAIL's chairman.

In a bid to fast-track its MEP, the public



sector undertaking commissioned projects worth Rs 10,200 crore in the financial year ended March 2015. SAIL is also finalising its Vision 2025 document, through which it aims to increase its hot metal production capacity

to 50 million tonnes, along with related business activities. In a bid to keep pace with growing competition and optimise production as well as costs, the steel maker is investing in research and development (R&D) initiatives.

In 2014-15, SAIL spent Rs 284 crore on R&D, the highest by any steel maker in India. Its R&D centre developed 24 new products during the last fiscal and the expenditure was 0.56 per cent of sales. It had clocked a sales turnover of Rs 50,627 crore during 2014-15 and its net profit stood at Rs 2,093 crore.

During last fiscal, its capital expenditure stood at Rs 6,840 crore, which is expected to rise to Rs 7,500 in 2015-16. SAIL's hot metal production rose by 7 per cent to 15.4 MT in 2014-15 against the previous year. Saleable production was up by 3 per cent at 13.5 MT.