



## Iran to construct factory for melting iron in Oman

According to reports Iran is set to construct a major factory for melting iron in Al Duqm, Oman, for which a major chunk of its proposed USD 4 billion in investments will be utilised. The report said that other major investments in the Sultanate will be in the Al Wusta Governorate.

Mr. Mohammad Reza Nematzadeh, Iranian Minister of Industry, Mines and Commerce, said, "We will be constructing a factory for melting iron as part of the 70% of the total investments to be made in

Al Duqm."

The report added that the smelter will be tasked with extracting metal by heating natural ore which is seen in Oman's rocky mountains that is mixed with purifying and heat generating substances such as limestone and coke at high temperatures in an enclosed furnace. Mr. Nematzadeh said that Iranian companies will be co-operating with Oman Rail Company to build bogies and rails.

He said, "Our five companies specialised in railways and locomotives are present at the expo and will be working closely with the Oman Rail Company. However, the action plan for the next 5 years will be decided at the joint commission of Oman and Iran to be held at

Grand Hyatt."

He added, "We need sea transportation to improve our trade ties as the distance by sea is very less between Iran's Bander Abbas Port and Oman's Al Batinah and Khasab. We will also be looking at ship manufacturing."

The exhibition, which will run till January 10, featuring more than 100 companies, covering diverse product segments ranging from handmade and machine-made products, home appliances, interior decoration and food products to medicinal, steel and metal, petrochemical products, power and industry-related equipment, construction materials, industrial machinery, and information communication technology.

## Qatar and Algeria ink \$1.2bn steel plant deal



A joint venture between Qatar Steel and Algeria's national steel and iron company Industrial Park Cedar will see a new USD\$1.2 bn steel plant built and operational by 2017.

A MoU was signed between the two companies in 2013, and the announcement over the construction of the plant was made late last month. The plant will be built in the industrial Bellara zone in the Eastern Algerian Mediterranean port of Jijel and is expected to produce 2 million tonnes of steel and iron per year.

Both companies have stated the plant will increase production to five million tonnes annually under future expansion plans. Cedar controls a 51 percent stake in the venture while Qatar Steel has the balance. Most steel will be used to fuel the domestic demand for steel and iron.

## Posco signs deal for \$400mn Oman steel mill



Korean firm Posco Engineering & Contracting has signed a \$400mn contract to build a steelmaking and rolling mill in Oman with Sun Metals. The deal was announced in May 2014, but a signing ceremony has just been held at Posco's headquarters in Songdo, South Korea, that was attended by representatives from Posco, Sun Metals and Japan's Sojitz Machinery, which is supplying much of the kit for the plant.

It will be based at the Sur Industrial Complex in the north east city of Sur and will be capable of manufacturing 2.5mn tons of billet, steel bar and special steel. The plant is expected to take 30 months to build. Posco has said that the project will offer it and other Korean construction firms the chance to extend their steel plant projects across the Middle East.

The firm said that steel mills in the region had previously largely been built by firms from Europe, but that it expects to grow its footprint in the region.