

USD 300m Algerian Emirati steel plant to kickstart in 2018

An Algerian-Emirati plant project costing USD 300 million for steel production and processing will be set up in 2018 at Relizane.

The project initiators said in Abu Dhabi that the project carried out in partnership between Algerian private group Bellazoug, specialized in construction, building material importation and tourism, and Emirati Bidewi Group, which manufactures and market construction material, according to a project's presentation at the first Algerian-Emirati economic forum held in the UAE's capital.

Endorsed recently by the National Investment Council, the plant, in which the Algerian side will have a share of 51% and the Emirati 49%, is to be executed in four stages, the project's partners said. In its first stage, expected to start in 18 months, the



plant will produce steel shapes and concrete reinforcing bars with a capacity of 600,000 tonnes a year, according to the project's manager, Massimo Pellegri.

The project's first stage will cost about USD110 million and create 650 direct jobs.

The second stage consists in launching a foundry and an electric furnace, as the plant will transform scrap iron into concrete reinforcing bars. This stage will be inaugurated in one year and a half after the plant comes into operation, that is, in three years.

Increase in HDGL productivity due to X-JET air knives at MMK



The MMK Metalurji Dortyol project in 2008 involved the supply of a complete Danieli hot and cold mill complex.

At that time the X-Jet technology was not yet available for industrial production (the first X-Jet installation occurred in mid-2009, in Italy), and so the MMK hot-dip galvanizing line was equipped with the Danieli Kohler S-Jet air knives.

Since 2008 the HDGL production mix has progressively moved to include a higher percentage of thin strips with very thin coatings (including Z70), and so the initial air knives had become a limit to higher processing speed, in effect a bottleneck to higher throughput.

The decision to install X-Jets followed technical discussions and a thorough analysis of the expected production benefits. Thanks to the modular design of Danieli Kohler's air knives, the revamping included the re-use of many parts of the existing equipment, minimizing the capital investment. Danieli supplied new X-Jet air knives with lip cleaners,

new blowers with special piping, modifications to the existing roll rigs and to the associated maintenance, and electrical and automation equipment.

The new X-Jets were installed during a scheduled, one-week maintenance shutdown.

The performance of the X-Jets in terms of coating weight versus line speed was immediately seen as a step change compared to the previous production parameters.

After the revamping the HDGL is able to daily produce Z100 at 180 meters per minute, and tests have shown the X-Jets to be capable of running Z80 with 40 g/m²/side at 180 mpm.

As a result of the X-Jet's performance, HDGL productivity has increased by approximately 10%, with a payback time of less than six months for MMK.

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