



Tata Steel starts production at its Odisha plant



Tata Steel's Rs 542-crore ferrochrome plant in Odisha has commenced production, according to a news report.

"The recently commissioned ferrochrome plant of Tata Steel at Gopalpur Industrial Park in Ganjam district of Odisha, has achieved a major milestone with the first ever production of ferrochrome on February 25, 2017, in compliance with all technical parameters," the company said.

As part of the anchor investment in Tata Steel's Gopalpur Industrial Park, the Rs 542-crore ferrochrome plant has an installed capacity of 55,000 ton per annum (tpa).

The plant was inaugurated on November 30, 2016, by Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

"This marks the completion of the commissioning of the ferrochrome plant. It also goes a long way in consolidating our footprint in Odisha and the long-standing partnership with the state towards industrial progress of the region," said D B Sundara Ramam, Tata Steel Executive-in-Charge, Ferro Alloys and Minerals Division.

It is a unique environment-friendly plant with state-of-the-art pollution control equipment and technology such as ETP (effluent treatment plant) and STP (sewage treatment plant).

It has a 100 percent water harvesting facility that caters to most of the water requirements of the plant. It has an indigenously built semi-closed hybrid furnace.

Also, it is the first plant in India to use briquetting method of chrome ore fines agglomeration.

Athagarh in Cuttack district of 55,000 TPA capacity under the management of its subsidiary T S Alloys.

Chromite briquettes used for making ferrochrome have been produced by the briquetting plant at the ferrochrome plant complex. The briquetting plant had earlier commenced production in January.

For the plant, the steel major is sourcing chrome ore from its chromite mine at Sukinda in Jajpur district of Odisha.

Besides the plant at Gopalpur, Tata Steel has two other ferrochrome plants in Odisha -- a 65,000 tpa plant at Bamnipal in Keonjhar district and the other at

JSW submits bid for Ilva steel plant

Sajjan Jindal's JSW Steel, along with three consortium partners, including the owner of the Luxottica Group, has submitted a final bid for Italy's loss-making 10-mln-ton steel plant, Ilva.

The JSW consortium will be pitted against the one led by ArcelorMittal and Italian steel-processing major Marcegaglia. The bid value is not known but is likely to be around USD1 billion.

According to the contours of the arrangement between the consortium partners, it is understood that JSW would hold around a 35 percent stake in the combined entity.

The balance will be held by financial investor CDP, businessman Leonardo Del Vecchio and Italian steelmaker Arvedi.

The net worth of Del Vecchio, founder and chairman of the Luxottica Group, owner of brands such as Ray-Ban and Oakley, is pegged at USD17.9 billion.

The operational management of the plant would, however, be with JSW, said sources close to the development.

Ilva, which was rated one of the most polluting steel plants of Europe, was nationalised in 2015, temporarily, in the hope of finding a new owner.

The plant, in Taranto in southern Italy, employs more than 14,000 people, and had been under special administration since 2013, when its owners were accused of failing to prevent toxic emissions.



Industry observers said the new owners of Ilva would, therefore, not only have to invest in turning around the plant but will also have to implement the environmental standards and regulations prevalent in the European Union.

When the ArcelorMittal-Marcegaglia combine offered to buy the plant in June, it had said that it would install the best available technology to bring Ilva in line with European environmental standards and legislation.

After all, with all its problems, Ilva is a vital asset in the Italian steel chain. It is said that at full capacity the plant could produce as much as Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Croatia, Slovenia, Romania and Luxembourg would do together.

If Ilva doesn't work out, JSW has other targets. It is the sole bidder for a controlling stake in Monnet Ispat Energy, through the strategic debt restructuring route. Also, it has approached lenders to take over the debt of Delhi based Bhushan Steel.