



Gulf Mining Group to triple its smelting capacity



Gulf Mining Group, one of the largest mining and mineral processing corporations in the sultanate, is pushing ahead with plans to triple the capacity of its ferrochrome smelting plant in FreezoneSohar with an investment of around USD 70 mln, said a report.

The plan follows the company

successfully dealing with the problem of slag mountains - the waste resulting from ferrochrome smelting, which had begun stockpiling on land earmarked for the expansion project, Mohammed Yahya Al Shabibi, Vice Chairman, Gulf Mining Group, said.

Al Shabibi said that the company is in the process of removing the slag, which has taken up more than a third of the site. The process will take about three to four months, upon the completion of which the company will commence construction work on the expansion project.

He noted that the expansion will be undertaken in two stages. The

first phase will lift smelting capacity from the present 50,000 tons per annum to 100,000 tons per annum, with this new capacity slated for commercial operation by late 2020 or early 2021.

Al Shabibi added that immediately thereafter, the company plans to embark on the second phase, which will boost the plant's overall capacity to 150,000 tons per annum, a process that should be completed by 2022-23.

The steel sector is the largest consumer of ferrochrome, especially stainless steel with chromium content of 10 to 20pct is the main application of ferrochrome. ■

Jindal Shadeed commissions new billet caster

Jindal Shadeed Iron & Steel LLC in Sohar Oman and SMS group have successfully put a new high-speed billet caster with six strands into operation. 42 heats in sequence could be cast within just over a month after start-up, which represents an impressive ramp-up curve.

The continuous casting machine was designed and commissioned in cooperation with SMS Concast, a company of SMS group. It is currently operating with six strands and produces rebar billets of 165 millimeters square section at a casting speed of 3.6 meters per minute. However, provision is made for eight strands and square billets with a section range from 130 up to 200 millimeters.

These billets shall be produced at casting speeds ranging from 1.0 to 5.0 meters per minute and shall reach an annual capacity of 2,000,000 tons. Apart from the



integrated CONVEX mold technology, it is planned to install further technological solutions by SMS Concast in order to enable the production of SBQ steel grades.

These grades need a closed casting mode with submerged entry nozzles.

In this mode, the future CONFLOW stopper control will optimally ensure a stable steel flow. In order to achieve the desired high-level steel qualities, the application of electromagnetic mold stirrers is on the agenda, too. The integration of CONSTIR-MEMS electromagnetic stirrers permits product quality control to be improved in terms of center segregation and center porosity. ■

Saudi Commerce ministry issues 29 licenses for steel exports

Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Commerce and Investment has issued 29 steel export licenses and 19 cement export licenses in the past eight months (this Hijri year), ministry's spokesman Abdulrahman Al-Hussaini said.

The ministry has issued 79 steel licenses and 50 cement licenses, since the ministerial committee approved export regulations.

The issued licenses met all regulatory requirements set by the ministries of commerce, finance, industry and environment, he added. ■

This section is a compilation from various company press releases, business dailies, trade publications and Industry Websites.