Bulleted

**EIB grants a 125 million euro loan**

The European Investment Bank (EIB) granted the Arcelor Group 125 million euro financing for the construction of Carinox, the UGINE & AZL steel plant in Charleroi (Belgium). This new facility, which will have a 1 million tonne production capacity, is currently under construction on the site of the existing hot strip mill of the UGINE & AZL company. This investment contributes to the economic development of the Hainaut province, an Objective 1 region in Belgium, and will result in the creation of 400 permanent jobs.

**Organizational Changes**

Expanding on a tradition that started in the 1990s, the Formtek Group announced the integration of the Dahlinham Flexible Fabrication Systems with FMI at the Iowa Precision facility in Cedar Rapids, IA, USA. By integrating FMI and Dahlinham with the many years of experience at Iowa Precision, customers can expect powerful solutions from leading technologies from each of these industry recognized brands.

**Outokumpu sells Avesta Welding**

Outokumpu has today signed an agreement to sell its Service Welding business, Avesta Welding, including its distribution channels, to Bolinder-Uddeholm of Austria. The Welding business has its main operations in Sweden, Indonesia and in the US and employs approximately 160 people. Net sales for the business in 2004 were some EUR 138 million. The closing of the transaction is subject to customary regulatory clearances.

**Rolled Alloys expands Cincinnati facility**

Rolled Alloys, an international supplier of heat resistant, corrosion resistant, high temperature, and titanium specialty alloy products, has completed major expansion and has added new processing equipment in its Cincinnati, Ohio warehouse and processing center. The facility has been expanded to 24,000 square feet, with 30,000 square feet allowing room for additional inventory and new processing capabilities.

**Show Stoppers!**

It’s almost time for the 2005 Stainless Steel World Conference & Exhbit, to be held in Maastricht, the Netherlands, from the 8th to 10th November 2005. Would you like to know what we have in store for you this year? Then take a look at the Show Preview on page 10611.

**Prices set to fall further**

Summer holidays in the northern hemisphere, high stocks and the weakening of raw material prices are combining to send stainless steel markets into the doldrums. Many producers have announced output cuts in an effort to bring the market back into balance. This has been made necessary by the excessive rate of production since mid 2004.

**Prof. Dr. Schulz’s contract extended**

The steel operation of ThyssenKrupp is to be reorganised, Dr. Eckehard Schulz is to remain chairman of the Executive board, and the CEO of each segment is to join the Executive Board.

The changes: The intermediate holding company Steel will be disbanded as of September 30, 2005, and the Carbon and Stainless Steel activities will then be run as independent segments - ThyssenKrupp Steel and ThyssenKrupp Stainless. As a consequence of the disbandment of the intermediate holding company Steel, the Supervisory Board of ThyssenKrupp AG resolved to make corresponding changes to the organisation of the Executive Board. A representative at ThyssenKrupp Steel commented how the company’s operating field, operations and strategy will remain unchanged by the reorganisation, and that business will not be affected.

The Executive Board: The future organisation will be based on the principle that each segment is equally represented by its CEO on the Executive Board of ThyssenKrupp AG. The Executive Board members not responsible for a segment will be in charge of the corporate departments at ThyssenKrupp AG. The CEOs of the future segments ThyssenKrupp Steel and ThyssenKrupp Stainless, Dr. Karl-Ulrich Köhler (49) and Jürgen Harmann Fechter (42) respectively, will be appointed to the Executive Board of ThyssenKrupp AG effective October 1, 2005. Gary Elliott (61), Chief Executive of ThyssenKrupp Elevator AG, will also join the Executive Board of ThyssenKrupp AG effective October 1, 2005.

The Executive Board of ThyssenKrupp AG will then comprise the following members: Prof. Dr. Eckehard Schulz (Chairman), Prof. Dr. Ulrich Middemann (Vice Chairman), Dr. Stefan Kirsten (CFO), Ralph Labonte (HR Director) as well as the Chief Executives of the six segments Dr. Karl-Ulrich Köhler (Steel), Jürgen Hermann Fechter (Stainless), Dr. Wolfram Mürsörf (Automotive), Dr. Olaf Berlien (Technologies), Gary Elliott (Elevator), and Edwin Eisheier (Services).

In addition, the Executive Committee, Personnel Committee and Supervisory Board discussed the question of succession to the position of Executive Board Chairman. It has been decided to propose to the Supervisory Board at its meeting in January 2006 that Prof. Eckehard Schulz’s contract, which expires in January 2007, should be extended from that time by a further 4 years to the close of the Annual General Meeting in January 2009.

**No steel for foreigners in China**

by Shu-Ching Jean Chen in Hong Kong

China, the world’s largest steel producer and consumer, revealed a long-awaited policy on the steel industry on Wednesday 20th July, that prevents foreigners from taking majority positions in domestic steel companies. Though the position paper’s stance was largely anticipated, analysts said it confirms suspicions that the Chinese government is concerned about yielding control to foreign investors in a strategic industry. The 40-article position paper “in principle” prohibits foreign investors from taking control of steel companies, but analysts said the wording could leave the door open to exceptions. Foreign steelmakers wishing to invest have to be able to produce 10 million metric tons of steel a year. Foreign financial investors have to show strong financial backing and high credibility, providing proof from their banks and accountant. These restrictions might not defer enthusiastic investors seeking to access the world’s fastest-growing steel market. Luxembourg-based Arcelor SA, for instance, was recently reported to be in talks with a midsize steelmaker, Qingdao iron and Steel Group Co. The Chinese paper also outlines the government’s desire to force consolidation in a market burdened by surplus production and inefficient small players, but it sees little foreign role in the process.

The paper, titled Development Policy for the Steel Industry, was approved by Premier Wen Jiabao in a Cabinet meeting and published in an official newspaper in Beijing, the Economic Daily.

**Editors Note:**

With a midsize steelmaker, Qingdao Iron and Steel Group Co.

by Shu-Ching Jean Chen in Hong Kong

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**Nickel Price**

For a detailed Market Report on raw material prices from SMR turn to page 3.
Steloy casts its net worldwide

Sarah Thompson

Steloy Castings (Pty) Ltd

Operating South Africa's two premier stainless steel foundries, Steloy Castings dominates the local market in this sector and is also a force to be reckoned with internationally, particularly in the supply of castings to the petrochemical industry. Steloy recently acquired South Africa's only stainless steel spun-casting plant, one of only a handful worldwide, and is gearing itself to further broaden its petrochemical footprint, Stainless Steel World News investigates.

From its foundry complexes at Bronkhorstspruit and Krugersdorp, both located close to Johannesburg, Steloy Castings has over the past twenty years established a strong track record in the supply of static stainless steel castings to the petrochemical industry. Founded in 1984, Steloy Castings is South Africa's most advanced and modern specialist foundry group.

New acquisition

With strong ambitions to further its footing in the petrochemical industry, Steloy recently made a significant acquisition. Mr. Dane Slabbert, Chief Executive Officer of the Steloy Foundry Group, began: "In order to supply the refining and downstream industries with a full spectrum of cast product, both static and spun, we recently acquired South Africa's only stainless steel spun-casting plant. With the demand for spun-cast tubes substantially higher than the requirement for static castings, the Group expects this to be a strong growth area in the future."

"We now have a combined plant floor space of 20,000m²," Mr. Slabbert continued. "The new facility has already been upgraded to global standards to meet the stringent quality requirements of the petrochemical industry and our expertise in the petrochemical arena, combined with economy-of-scale benefits due to synergies between our foundry operations, significantly enhance our product offering."

Advances in alloys

The evolution of alloys in the petrochemical industry due to increasing demand for higher creep strengths at higher temperatures in ever diminishing section thicknesses, for greater plant efficiencies.

"Integral to these material developments is Steloy Castings' focus on high quality. The company's facilities are equipped with spectrometers to analyse all applicable elements, including the base elements such as nickel and chrome and nickel but specifically the key elements such as niobium, titanium, zirconium, tungsten, cobalt, tin and lead, and creep tests are also conducted on an ongoing basis – using internationally acknowledged laboratories – to establish a data base for these specific alloys."

The Group also has facilities for the machining of weld preps on spun-cast and fitting ends, and complete pull boring facilities for spun-cast tubing.

Track record

"We are proud of our track record in delivering value to the petrochemical industry worldwide," said Mr. Slabbert. "Based in South Africa, we form part of a technologically advanced foundry industry, yet we are able to unlock significant cost benefits for international customers due to reasonable labour and energy costs, a currency that favours exports and the ready availability of raw materials."

Some of Steloy's recently executed orders for the petrochemical industry include fired heater components for ExxonMobil in Southeast Asia, tube fittings for customers in the UK, pump and gasifier plant parts for Sasol Synfuels, South Africa, cement, aluminium, paper and power generation industries. Another important part of the company's track record involves its ability to provide tailored made products and services to customer specification including a 48-hour turnaround on quotations and a worldwide supply and delivery service.

Certification

Complying with industry standards in order to maintain and guarantee quality is of the utmost importance at Steloy. Mr. Slabbert explained: "The nature of the application and potential for disaster in case of failure makes production, quality control and the monitoring of quality throughout the casting process critically important. On top of the advanced material grades and high-tech casting processes, quality-control procedures ensure adherence to the highest standards and specifications."

In addition to API and ASTM, these include British Standards, the German SD No and DIN. The Bronkhorstspruit and Krugersdorp divisions both operate to ISO 9001:2000 standards, with accreditation from the Dutch Council for Accreditation (RvA) and TÜV Rheinland, Germany, respectively.

Steloy's senior management with spun-cast tubes. From left: Peter Kymdell, General Manager; Bob Morne, Manager; Dane Slabbert, Chief Executive Officer of the Steloy Group; and Peter Kymdell, General Manager. Back row: the casting management and on-site radiography.

Dedicated

Further to its 20,000m² plant space, highly trained and dedicated staff and state-of-the-art technologies, the privately owned company has a staff complement of 360 and comprises three divisions, each housed in its own foundry complexes. Two divisions are dedicated to the casting of stainless steel products whilst the third produces iron and steel castings.

This dedicated team has years of expertise and experience. Mr. Slabbert explained how the company’s philosophy has been to invest, not only in equipment and technology but also in people. "We have a highly qualified technical team with years of experience in the relevant metallurgical and quality assurance procedures, pattern-making and on-site radiography. We believe our aim to provide the best cast products and a casting service at a fair price can only be achieved if supported by the company’s core values, which include continual improvement in all its endeavours, integrity in all spheres of business, a true partnership with employees, dedication, and fanatical attention to detail."

Steloy Castings supplies supporting elements such as tube sheets, hangars, brackets, tube supports, side wall supports as well as beds into the local market, Asia, Europe, the UK and the USA. Its client list includes Foster Wheeler, Salas Lindo, Germany, and components for Foster Wheeler, UK.

In addition to the petrochemical industry, Steloy supplies castings to markets as diverse as pump and valve manufacturers and the steel, tubular and valve manufacturers and the steel, tubular and valve manufacturing industries.

A range of high performance fittings for the petrochemical industry.

Stainless Steel World News
Market Outlook - JULY 2005

SUMMERTIME BLUES - SMR Steel & Metals Market Research

Not surprisingly, this month we had only 19 respondents to our monthly price census, since the industry is re-charging its batteries after a busy first half of 2005. But even away from the desk the question on everybody’s mind at the moment is: What will the rest of the year bring for volumes, prices and margins?

In summary, 304 pricing continues to be under pressure, particularly in Asia where we have seen the biggest declines as a result of the developing oversupply/capacity for commodity products. 316 and Duplex prices increased as Molybdenum pricing remained strong (after a correction in June) and project-type business in the process industries (that consumes a lot of 316) remains healthy.

In spite of this, the price gap between Asia and Europe did widen only marginally. The once again weakening of the Euro (-4% against the USD) has compensated for 135 USD/t (304) and 265 USD/t (316) price differences between Europe and Asia. Thus, imports from the Far East are still not very attractive for European users. Stainless steel producers in Europe and Asia have announced significant (up to 23%) production cuts for Q3/Q4 in order to accelerate the ongoing de-stocking and to prevent prices from further declining. Scrap levels at independent stockists are already at normal or even low levels in Europe, but mill captive stock levels are still too high.

**Prices**

First, we are summarizing the price situation in July 2005, as always based on at least 3 respondents per price.

**Europe**

The alloy surcharge for 304 grade products increased in July only slightly (up 6.5 EUR/t dependent on the supplier), but that for 316 grade products quite significantly (approx. + 135 EUR/t depending on the supplier).

A further increase, is generally not reflected in prices to end-users, indicating a further softening of base prices for cold rolled sheets.

Quarto plates prices increased slightly (+1%), but also less than the rise in alloy charges. Only for prices increased according to the alloy surcharge increase, indicating that base prices are firm at the moment.

The positive exceptions were welded and annealed pipes, which showed an increase in pricing up to 5% in July. On the other hand tube prices (ornamental and structural) were weakening by 2-3% in the same period.

**North America**

In accordance with the North American market we are showing prices in USD/t in the table below.

The U.S. stainless steel industry is suffering a decline in activity, and this can now also be seen in the price movements. Even alloy surcharge was increasing by 1.5 ct for 304 products, and by 12.5 ct for 316 products. This could not have been passed on to end-users, where prices did not increase at all for 304 products, and increased only by 3.7 ct for 316 products.

The weakest products were 304 quarto plate, seamless and ornamental tubes, where prices even declined by 1% to 3% in July.

**Asia**

The Asian market reacts much faster and directly to raw material changes from the American, and in particular the European markets. Thus, with the exception of seamless pipes, all 304 prices declined in Asia in July between 1% and 2% as a consequence of falling nickel and scrap prices. Seamless tube and pipe prices remained basically stable.

On the other hand 316 prices increased between 1% and 3% amid firm Mo prices. But the volumes sold in 316 are very low at the moment.

**Raw Materials**

**Nickel**

Nickel production is still running at high levels, while consumption has been reduced amid production cutbacks at the leading stainless steel producers, in addition to a lower consumption of nickel bearing grades. Official Nickel stocks remained on a very low level, around 7,000 tons.

Thus, a further nickel price reduction is likely, unless there will be major changes on the supply side. The potential strike at NCO’s Canadian operations, which is becoming increasingly likely, could eliminate significant nickel volumes from the market.

**Chromie**

In early August, FeCr prices slipped to the lowest level since March 2004, to 67 ct/lb.

The above mentioned substitution of nickel bearing stainless steels (300) through low (200) or no-nickel (400) bearing stainless steels has a strengthening effect on Cr consumption, as scrap is no raw material major source in these grades. Thus, a high nickel price has a positive effect on Cr consumption, leading to the strong market and high Cr prices for 2004 and 2005. But the slowing stainless steel production (Q3/Q4) takes its toll on Cr consumption and the market is currently in surplus, leading to higher competition amongst the main producers in South Africa and other countries. Some FeCr furnaces have already been (temporarily) taken out of operation, but it remains to be seen whether this is sufficient to prevent prices from slipping below the support line at 65-70 ct/lb.

**Molybdenum**

Today Molybdenum prices are 8 times higher than 2 years ago, and the stainless steel industry asks itself “How long can this price level be sustained?”

Molybdenum has 3 main market drivers. Stainless steels, alloy steels and nickel alloys. Whilst stainless steels have slowed down recently, the activity in alloy steels, and especially nickel alloys, remains buoyant, supporting molybdenum on a very high level. Different from earlier this year, nobody expects a molybdenum shortage anymore. The extreme bull-run ran out of steam and a further price correction becomes increasingly likely.

**Titanium**

After a period of continuous price reductions as a result of strong deliveries from Russia and the Ukraine, coupled with higher scrap availability, the market has bottomed out. Titanium consumption is continuously strong, driven by strong demand from the aerospace industry. Leading titanium producers have 30-40% higher order backlog today than one year ago. This provides support for the current price which has stabilized at 14 USD/kg. Recent rumours about supply difficulties for titanium sponge cause some uneasiness in the market that makes future price spikes, like the one in March / April 2005, possible.

In order to prepare for these, USA (Ugine & AL2) has modified its alloy surcharge calculation formula to include a titanium (and niobium) component.

**Scrap**

While stainless steel mills are currently reducing their production, they are forced to obey long term primary nickel supply contracts. This results in a reduced use of stainless steel scrap, which is abundant at the moment. Scrap suppliers have reduced their prices in order to prevent the scrap rates from falling further. The scrap market is in previous booming markets like China, South Korea and Taiwan is very quiet at the moment.

This has led to a reduction of scrap prices in July to a level that is only slightly higher than the prices seen in May, when nickel was still 3,000 USD/t, lower than today. This highlights the importance of competition in stainless steel scrap at the moment.

**OUTLOOK**

After a strong start into 2005, the market has cooled since Q2. Europe and North America are coming back from the summer holidays into a market that has stabilized on a lower level. Stock levels have been reduced in recent months in expectation of falling alloy surcharges, which might peak in August.

It is solely in the hands of the stainless steel producers and raw material suppliers to get supply in line with the reduced demand in order to prevent prices from slipping further. At the moment it looks as if the stainless steel producers would react, while raw materials suppliers are still undecided whether to reduce output.

The European stainless steel industry is presently evaluating the possibility to change the formula to calculate the alloy surcharge. Currently month 3 and 2 preceding the delivery month is used as base. Using only the month preceding delivery like (in the USA) would better reflect raw material fluctuations.

**Stainless Steel World News www.sswnews.com Page 3**
EN 10217-7: a new standard for welded stainless steel tubes

Last February the new standard for welded stainless steel tubes which the market had been waiting so long for, finally saw the light. It is EN 10217-7 “Welded steel tubes for pressure purposes – Technical delivery conditions – Part 7: Stainless steel tubes.” This long-awaited document is destined to become an essential reference for manufacturers and users of welded stainless steel tube, a product used in a wide variety of applications, including some involving important responsibilities such as heat exchangers, equipment for the food industry, mechanical and civil constructions, chemical-pharmaceutical equipment, and tubes for conduction and plant engineering.

This standard, once it has been implemented by all members of the European Community, will replace and do away with all the national standards applied to this field in the past. In particular, it is worth noting that EN 10217-7 will definitely be subject to the procedures for inclusion in the new harmonised standards under Directive 97/23/EC (PED - Pressure Equipment Directive); this is very important, for instance, in the construction of tube bundle heat exchangers, which are subject to the above-mentioned directive, and to all devices considered to be under pressure (min 0.5 bar).

The importance of this standard is that it replaces widespread national standards with DIN 17457 and NF A 49-147, which were the references in Europe for quality welded stainless steel tube. Table 1 below, extrapolated from an ESTA (European Steel Tube Association) publication, shows all the national standards that will be replaced by EN 10217-7:

- Turning to content, the standard is divided into 13 main paragraphs, which are in turn divided into sections, plus an annex. For more information regarding this full details regarding the new standard, visit the European Committee for Standardization at: www.cen.be

### A list the benefits of using European EN standards:

EN standards are a valid reference for manufacturers, users and authorities throughout the European Union and in all EFTA nations;

- the number of different standards in use is reduced;
- correspondence with European directives is ensured with specific standards;
- clear definition of products;
- greater safety in that products cannot be re-qualified (changing their field of application);
- easy correlation with the corresponding American or Japanese products (Source: Centre intra).

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Table 1: national standards replaced by the new EN 10217-7 standard

### Prices set to fall further

Continued from page 1...

The resulting over-supply has caused falls in stainless prices. Mills have therefore been trying to steady the market by announcing cutbacks in production. In Europe, ThysenKrupp Stainless, Ugine & Aliz and Outokumpus have each said they are reducing output – though in the case of the Finnish company it is not clear to what extent cuts at its Swedish works will be offset by the ramp-up of its new melting shop at Tornio in Finland. In Asia, stainless mills in Taiwan, Korea and Japan are reducing their operating rates, citing the need to bring down stock levels. Even Chinese cold rolled stainless producers are reining back their production.

So far these cuts have not had much effect on prices and neither are developments in the all-important alloy costs helping the mills to fill their order books. The average UNE settlement price for nickel in June was USD 16 159 per tonne – down by about 5 percent from May. Barring an upsurge in the last few days of July, the average price is certain to be much lower than this, because nickel has been trading at less than USD 15 000 per tonne for most of the month. In addition, ferro-chrome is being sold in the third quarter at around 78 US cents per pound – down from 83-84 US cents in period two.

These lower prices for alloys, together with declining costs of unalloyed scrap, will result in falling surcharges for stainless buyers. In North America, some of these reductions are already showing through in surcharges for August, which for type 304 are down by about 9 percent from July. The further cost decreases will result in markedly reduced surcharges from September and will spread to Europe too.

### Appointments

**Sheldon Brear**
Welding equipment manufacturer, Kemppi (UK), based in Bedford, whose parent company is Kemppi OY in Lahti, Finland has announced the appointment of Sheldon Brear as their new Technical Sales Engineer for the North of England. Brear (36), is responsible for both distributor and ‘end user’ Kemppi customer sales within the region. He joins the company with over 17 years experience of welding industry experience, which will benefit Kemppi customers’ pre and post sale.

**Paul Ellis**
Toronto-based Serica Energy Corp. has appointed Paul Ellis as chief executive officer. The appointment became effective as of 1st September. Serica is an international oil and gas exploration and production company with primary activities in Indonesia, the UK North Sea, and Spain.

**José Sérgio Gabrielli de Azevedo**
José Sérgio Gabrielli de Azevedo, chief financial officer of Petroleo Brasileiro SA (Petrobras), will become the state-owned company’s chief executive officer following the resignation of José Eduardo Azevedo, who plans to run for the Senate. Gabrielli has served as CFO and investor relations director with Petrobras since Feb. 1, 2003.

**HSE announces new Chief Executive**
Geoffrey Podger has been appointed Chief Executive of the UK Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Mr Podger will take up his new role at the HSE on 28 November.

**Cathy Johnstone**
Huntington Fusion Techniques has appointed Cathy Johnstone to provide general support for Hispanic distributors and customers. Cathy will help provide a more comfortable platform for communication between the company and its Spanish speaking users. She complements our existing German national Barbara Fuchs who has been with the company now for over 2 years. HFT is a supplier of weld purge systems, tungsten electrode grinders and resistance welder electrode force gauges.

**Scott Schwartz & Clem Mitchell**
The Thiacrystals Division of Arkema Inc. (formerly Atafina Chemicals Inc.) has announced two key management appointments. Scott Schwartz has been appointed general manager, Methacrylate Intermediates and Derivatives (MID), U.S. and...
Joining forces to service the world’s oilfields

When some of the components, which are exported to oilfields around the world, need special wear and corrosion protection, Chappell Engineering (UK), works together with weld overlay cladding specialist, Arc Energy Resources (UK), based just a few miles down the road. Depending on service conditions, one of a number of alloys is used: from aluminium bronze for simple frictional wear, through conventional stainless steels where atmospheric attack takes place, to the highly alloyed nickel base materials like alloy 625, where the most aggressive media are encountered.

Commenting on the service he receives, Jim Chappell, Manager, says it’s very convenient having a weld overlay cladding specialist just down the road, but stresses that Arc Energy’s handy location is only one of many reasons why the relationship works.

Specifying stainless steel made simple

The Australian Stainless Steel Development Association (ASSDA) has released the Australian Stainless 2005 Reference Manual – a 200 page technical resource for specifying and buying stainless steel. The manual is an instantly accessible resource for Australian specifiers and is backed by free technical and supply advice, according to ASSDA executive director Richard Matheson. “It is a comprehensive guide to sourcing and utilising stainless steel presented in a format which is quick and easy to use,” he said.

The manual uses clear, concise tables and diagrams to present a wealth of technical information on properties, grade selection, surface finishes, design and fabrication. Photos and illustrations identify different products, concepts and specifications. Published every two years, the manual is an essential publication for architects, engineers, purchasing officers and specifiers connected with different products, concepts and specifications.

Over 65 million feet in service worldwide.

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Product News

Reducing & Sizing Block for CHINA

Jiangyin Xing Chang Special Steel in Jiangyin, Hunan Province, China, has decided to install a Reducing & Sizing Block from Friedrich Kocks GmbH & Co KG, Hilden, Germany. The order will be executed together with Danieli & C., Italy, being the main contractor as well as newly formed company, CTL Centreline. The 5-stand 370mm Reducing & Sizing Block of heavy duty design will be integrated as a finishing block in the completely new 500,000 ton/year bar line. The 3-roll block will produce round bars with a dimensional range of 15 to 60mm Ø in straight lengths on a cooling bed. The installation of the new Kocks 3-roll Reducing & Sizing Block is scheduled for the summer of 2006.

Analysis of cobalt and titanium alloys

Thermo Electron Corporation’s ARL QUANTRIS™ is the first instrument of its type to achieve the performance of traditional photomultiplier tube instruments. This new generation Charge Coupled Device (CCD)-based spectrometer is newly configured to permit ultimate accuracy in
New cut-off wheel

Walter Inc. introduces the Zip type 27 cut-off wheel. The mixed hubs of these wheels are completely covered with a polished steel cap. This metal cap prevents the wheel from possibly exploding when an unattended hub comes in contact with the work piece. Walter also introduced two new cutting wheels formulated specifically for stainless steel, the New Zip stainless type 27 and the Zip stainless type 1. Both are 3/64”, .045” and fast cutting on all types of non-ferrous metals. The wheels free of iron, sulfur, chlorine and other contaminating ingredients. These nuclear grade products provide extra cutting life for all applications.

Gas pipe material evaluation

Advantics’ test center, the Spadecom Test Site in Cumbria (UK), is using Krohne’s (Germany) Optimass Coriolis mass flow-meter in its facility to measure the new nuclear powder gas transporting from offshore field to refineries. The mass flow-meter is being used in complex tests on a 300m length of pipe constructed from the new pipe material. It is being used to replicate precisely the gas conditions found at the place of installation to test the pipe’s toughness and resistance to fracture. The Optimass can measure precisely the amount of each gas passed into the pipe and enables scientists at Spadecom to reproduce exactly the natural gas and conditions found at the field where the pipe is planned to be installed. Measurement data from the Optimass is output to a data logger which records the amount of gas introduced during each step in the experiment. The mass flow-meter is available in a range of sizes and can be used for low and high flow rate applications. Wrought parts of the instrument can be manufactured from titanium, stainless steel or Hastelloy®.

Speedfly5 in-line tube cutter

Tube Tech’s Speedfly5 in-line tube flying cut with Laser technology was conceived and designed to work materials such as stainless steel. The cutting unit, designed to independently optimize the focal point, is made up of a CO2 Laser source, of a pressurized multi-mirror optical system, to transmit the beam from the Laser source to the head, and of a cooling system. The cutting head produces an orthogonal Laser beam on the surface of the piece and goes, along three linear, two rotary and one compensative axis, at a speed of 120m/min and with an acceleration of 1.2m per sec². The movements are activated by Linear and Torque motors that, capable of excellent angular and linear accelerations, contribute to increase the system reliability and stiffness simplifying the kinematics chain.

The Trevor Gooch environmental testing labs

The latest addition to TWI’s expansion and redevelopment, a new environmental test complex, has been formally opened. It is named after the late Dr Trevor Gooch in recognition of his groundbreaking corrosion work gained during a 35 year career at TWI in environmental testing and performance of materials.

The development was prompted by TWI’s recent re-location of the original hydrogen sulphide laboratory from the other side of the TWI site (UK). The move gave the business the opportunity it needed to pull together under one roof a wide range of environmental testing facilities complemented by the electro-chemical laboratory. The new complex comprises seven individual laboratories and a control room, covering a total floor area of about 350m². In addition to a wide range of tests in soil and sweet environments to support the oil and gas industry it embraces several types of static and dynamic environmental test including salt spray, creep testing of plastics in hot water and tests on sustained load cracking of titanium alloys in cold seawater.

Thermo Ships its 5000th ARL 3460

Thermo Electron Corporation has announced the 5000th customer order of its ARL 3460 Optical Emission (OES) spectrometer for metals analysis. The order was received from the Aucordia plant of Gardu in Brazil, a producer of long steel in America, with mills in the United States, Brazil, Argentina, Canada and Uruguay.

Breakaway coupling

Flexalite Chemgines introduces its new Salamander coupling. The hygienic breakaway coupling is designed to prevent damage to installations and injury to personnel when a tanker drives away while the hose remains connected. For use with non-hazardous products within the food and brewery industries, the Salamander hygienic breakaway coupling combines the tried and tested hygienic sealing abilities of the tri-clamp type gasket and the universally accepted material properties of 316L stainless steel.

New pH electrode

Burkert Fluid Control Systems introduces its new electrodes. This pH electrode is available in high grade stainless steel and features a sturdy, durable and robust stainless steel. This allows it to be used in applications in which the liquid being measured contains solids. The pH electrode was conceived for the exacting demands of the food and beverage industry, pharmaceutical and chemical applications and also in water and sewage treatment. The latest pH probe can be sterilized in-line, and therefore does not have to be removed from the pipeline during a cleaning cycle.

Hygienic breakaway coupling

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Expanding turning capability

Vidgraan Jones in Wathby, Yorkshire, subcontract manufacturers of specialist fasteners and other turned parts, has invested in a third Star sliding-headstock lathe to extend its pursuit of one-hit machining to components of up to 32 mm diameter. The Star SV-32 lathe has taken over from fixed-head turning of complex parts, slashing production times and providing the capability to quote same-day order turnaround if necessary.

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SS Bright bars

Rampra Steel (India) now offers Bright bars from 3mm to 155mm dia in stainless, alloy, (including heat treated bars) carbon, mild steel in rounds, flats, hexagons, flats, half rounds, profiles etc. Rampra Steel also offers: AISI 420, AISI 1045: Pump shaft quality , precision ground, h9 tolerance, close length tolerances, 5mm, 10mm, 15mm dia. Rampra Steel also offers: AISI 420, AISI 1045: Pump shaft quality , precision ground, h9 tolerance, close length tolerances, 5mm, 10mm, 15mm dia.
Stainless steel fittings

SMC Pneumatics have launched its new Series KQG, one touch, stainless steel fittings. With its all metal construction - body, guide and chuck - made of SUS 316 stainless steel, this range of grease free fittings can work with ambient and fluid temperatures from -5°C up to 150°C. Due to its POM sealing material, they can handle environments such as hot steam.

MIG welding wire

A new welding wire, designated Sandvik 22.8.3 LS, has been launched by Sandvik Materials Technology as a developed welding consumable for welding duplex stainless steels by the MIG (Metal Inert Gas) process.

55 shaft collars

In harsh and wet environments, Ruland Manufacturing Co. is now offering stainless steel shaft collars to prevent corrosion. Type 303 stainless steel, with its passovite surface finish, resists water and many commercial grade chemicals, such as chlorine and some acids. This material is suitable for wash-down applications such as those found in food processing and marine applications.

303 stainless steel SS shaft collars

Sandvik 22.8.3.LSi, has been developed to meet high quality standards regarding corrosion resistance, ‘polishability’ and workability of the material and has been patented accordingly.

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For more information contact a representative today.

Did you know that . . .

Andre Hempel, Managing Director, Hempel Special Metals Group

The most expensive steel watch ever sold was a Patek Philippe wristwatch (see below left) made out of Staybrite 1.4435 steel, named so back in 1937. It was sold at an afternoon auction in April 2004 in Geneva for USD 1,669,318! Still today Swiss luxury watches, such as Omega, Breguet, Blancpain and Chopard, are made out of Staybrite stainless steel. A tradition that has lasted over the years and is still requested by the famous Swiss brands today.

The British steel mill, Firth Brown, introduced this stainless steel over eighty years ago in the early 1920s to Swiss watch makers for making the cases and the straps. A 12 chrome 12 nickel steel, the Staybrite 2.0, became the standard material for almost 50 years. In fact, the first man on the moon, Neil Armstrong, wore an Omega Speedmaster wristwatch made of Staybrite Steel D.C.Q. in 1969.

In the sixties and seventies the 304 and 304L were also used for making watch cases and are still used by some brands. In 1973, the Staybrite 1.4435 was developed to meet high quality standards regarding corrosion resistance, ‘polishability’ and workability of the material and has been patented accordingly.

Today you can find wristwatches with large polished surfaces, something which was less common a few years ago. The introduction of new grades and new steels and developments in the production process from watch manufactures have meant that it is now in fact very difficult to tell the difference between a stainless steel watch and one made of a precious metal. Stainless steel does have a number of advantages though, despite its inauspicious appearance. It is harder than precious metal and at course less expensive.

Stainless Steel World News

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Precise Tubing Products available in Stainless Steel, Nickel Alloys, Titanium, Encapsulated and High Purity Stainless Steel. Straight Lengths, and coils.

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A global network of sales and manufacturing facilities. Over 30 countries around the world.

Wide Tubing Grades and Tubing to Your Tolerances

Tubing to your tolerances. We established the standards; now, we’re raising the bar again.

Contact your RathGibson representative today.

Energy Northwest approves project
Energy Northwest is seeking participants for a 600MW Western Washington power station that is expected to cost about USD 1 billion. The new twin 300MW plants would be fuelled by a synthesis gas derived from a slurry consisting of coal and coal-like petroleum coke. Environmentally, the complex would be cleaner than a traditional coal plant but emit more pollutants than a modern gas-fired plant. The plant would come online in 2011 under the timeline being envisioned and may be expanded if there is enough interest.

Parker acquires SSD
Parker Hannifin Corporation and SSD Drives Holding Limited have jointly announced that Parker has acquired SSD (formerly Eurotherm Drives) from the private equity firm Compass Partners International Limited for an undisclosed amount. SSD Drives has four main manufacturing facilities, including one each in the UK, France, Germany and the USA. SSD Drives serves the plastics, converting, packaging, extrusion, printing, pulp and paper, primary metals markets and general industrial automation.

Georg Fischer to sell Swiss facility
Georg Fischer, Schaffhausen, Switzerland, will discontinue the provisional use of the former steel foundry in Mühlental, Switzerland, no later than the end of July 2006. At the same time, the company is seeking a buyer for the property. The decision was taken after the high court of the Canton of Schaffhausen upheld the administrative tribunal appeal against the demolition and building permit issued by the cantonal authorities for a planned service centre. Georg Fischer is no longer prepared to bear the disproportionately high costs involved in the renovation and upkeep of the building that are needed for further provisional operation.

Green light for blast furnace 8
The Düsseldorf district authority has granted approval to ThyssenKrupp Stahl AG for the construction of blast furnace 8. The investment is the centerpiece of a modernization program for the company’s hot metal base in Duisburg-Hamborn which also includes the relining of the nearby blast furnace 9. The 41 years old blast furnace 4 will then be shut down and kept only as a back-up unit. The concept is to be implemented by 2008 at a total cost of EUR 340 million.

Baosteel slab