

Aleris ready to supply aerospace plates to Airbus

The Aleris rolling mill in Zhenjiang, China, has attained qualification to supply aluminium aerospace plate to various Airbus aircraft. Aleris' facility in Koblenz, Germany, has supplied aluminium aerospace plate to Airbus for decades. Aleris Zhenjiang, which was opened in early 2013, was modelled after the Koblenz facility to meet the needs of both global and regional aircraft manufacturers by establishing a local supply of aluminium aircraft plate in Asia Pacific.

In June 2014, Aleris announced the Zhenjiang plant's achievement of Nadcap accreditation, which allowed the company to move into the final stages of qualification with Airbus and other major aircraft manufacturers. Bombardier and Comac have also qualified the Zhenjiang facility and shipments of aircraft plate began at the end of 2014. Aleris Zhenjiang is one of the first facilities in Asia Pacific qualified to produce aluminium plate for a major global aircraft manufacturer.

Alcoa to acquire Tital

Alcoa plans to further expand its global aerospace business by acquiring privately held Tital in Germany. Tital is a leader in titanium and aluminium structural castings for aircraft engines and airframes. Its revenues from titanium are expected to increase by 70% over the next five years as manufacturers of next-generation jet engines look to titanium solutions for engine structural components. Titanium can withstand extreme high heat and pressure and is a lighter weight alternative to steel, providing increased energy efficiency and improved performance. These engines are used on large commercial aircraft, including wide- and narrow-body airplanes. Engines for narrow-body aircraft are among the top selling jet engines in the world.

The transaction, which has been approved by the boards of directors of both companies, remains subject to customary closing conditions and receipt of required regulatory approvals. Alcoa expects to obtain all required regulatory clearances and close the transaction in the first quarter of 2015.

Two Henan-based companies to build 600,000-tpy hot-rolled aluminium mill

Henan Energy Yimei Co. and Wanji Holdings Group have signed a cooperation framework

agreement on the construction of a 600,000-tpy aluminium hot-rolling mill and two 600 MW power generating units, according to a report from *Shanghai Metals Market* by quoting local media. The aluminium mill will cost

3.5bn yuan (USD570m). Both power generating units, with planned investment totalling 5.3bn yuan, will generate 7.2 billion kilowatt hours of electricity annually once fully operational in the first half of 2017. ■

Suppliers

De Winter sets new furnace standards

De Winter Engineering has moved into the production of an aluminium melting furnace which was specifically designed to have ultra-low energy and maintenance costs. The 75-tonne stationary furnace with two chambers for the recycling of both thin and block scrap has a proven melt rate of 8 t/h at an energy consumption rate of less than 520 kWh/t, the company emphasizes.

This year, De Winter is looking back on 30 years of experience in the production of customized new furnaces and the cost reducing revamp of existing furnaces, for example by pressure regulation, a relatively small investment which tends to get underestimated. A sturdy pressure regulation system may very well reduce fuel consumption by 10-15% compared to the same furnace without such a system. Better known are the cost reductions which can be gained by a good self-adjusting door sealing. De Winter's in-house simulation experts are able to accurately calculate of what a client may gain by revamping his furnace.

Seat Group selects Seco/Warwick for modernising furnace lines

Seco/Warwick is in the process of completing the modernization of the first of two pusher furnace lines for automotive components. This project began in March 2014, with the work being performed at Seat Components near Barcelona, Spain. The first modernized line is finishing the final testing phase of the project. The repair of the second system started in November and is scheduled for completion in March 2015. Due to the positive results from the first system, Seat Components has placed an order for the modernization and refurbishment of two heat processing lines to improve total system efficiency.



The new De Winter Melting Furnace is characterized by ultra low energy consumption and reduced maintenance costs

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The technical rebuild will cover the replacement of furnace lining, burner system and fan assemblies of both the heat treat and tempering furnaces. The project includes a washing machine and material handling system. The Seat Components plant decided to replace the existing control cabinet with new, updated control system.

New orders for Granco Clark

Tower Aluminum of Olney, Texas, has selected Granco Clark to upgrade the heating system on their existing press line. The upgrade is a Model 57 hot jet billet furnace. The new heating systems will provide Tower with equipment that offers accurate and consistent heating efficiency for all throughput scenarios to the extrusion press. Transport equipment to deliver the billet to the press is also included.

Star Extruded Shapes of Canfield, Ohio, has selected Granco Clark's highly efficient natural gas log furnace, hot log saw and FusionBond system for two of their existing aluminium extrusion lines. With the equipment providing cut billets to the state-of-the-art FusionBond, Star will be able to reduce scrap thanks to Granco's technology bonding the short normally unused billet to the following log, thereby using the entire log.

Oldcastle Building Envelope of Terrell, Texas, has selected Granco Clark to upgrade the log cutting systems on both of their existing press lines. They purchased Model HBCS 69 hot log saws to replace the existing shears. Transport equipment to deliver the billet to