



INDUSTRY UPDATE

Raccortubi acquires Petrol Raccord



On 24th December, Raccortubi, leading stockholder, manufacturer and supplier of piping materials, completed the acquisition of Petrol Raccord S.p.A., manufacturer of butt weld fittings for the oil & gas, power generation and petrochemical industries, in a deal to expand Raccortubi Group's production range.

Established in 1969, Petrol Raccord manufactures butt weld fittings up to 56", almost without wall thickness limitations, and holds an impressive number of end-user approvals, as well as quality certification for the nuclear industry. Using the hot forming method, Petrol Raccord has the capability to provide elbows, tees, reducers and caps in accordance with the most stringent market requirements. In addition, thanks to the experience and expertise which have made Petrol Raccord internationally acclaimed in its field, an increasing part of production is dedicated to special/customised fittings such as flow or barred tees, "Y" pieces, laterals, manifolds and headers. The integration of a second butt weld fittings manufacturer within Raccortubi Group will enable it to complete its manufacturing range, both in terms of the dimensions and thicknesses of fittings on offer. With Raccortubi's focus on stainless steel and special materials

such as duplex, superduplex, 6-Moly and nickel alloys, Petrol Raccord will create additional value, extending fittings' production up to 56" and therefore heightening Group efficiency in the provision of complete project packages.

New office for Harald Pihl

Harald Pihl, Swedish distributor and stockholder of nickel based alloys, titanium and refractory metals, has opened a new office in Bergen, Norway. Kjetil Aksdal joins the company to head the new office from his sales and marketing role with Titanium Industries. Kjetil has 12 years' experience of the oil and gas industries in Norway. The opening of the new office will increase Harald Pihl's presence in the market place, providing expertise in nickel and titanium for the oil & gas industries in NORSOK materials including bars, plate, pipes and forgings. The company are AS/EN 9120 Aerospace approved. For a daily updated stock list go to www.haraldpihl.com

Kanto Steel confirms savings with EFSOP system

Kanto Steel signed off on performance savings for the supply and purchase of an EFSOP[®] Holistic Optimization System commissioned in the spring 2014. The EFSOP system was installed at the EAF#1 'Top Charged' 90t furnace at the Kanto steel plant located at Tsuchiuracity, Ibaraki, Japan. Consumption savings attained during the project lifecycle included 0.5% electrical, 8% oxygen and 20% kerosene, combined with an increase in



yield of 0.5%. Total overall consumption savings reached were a little more than EUR 1.29/t

Kanto Steel is the third EFSOP system currently operational in Japan and the fourth order within the last 24 months.

NLMK Group preferred supplier for Alstom



NLMK Group received the status of preferred category A supplier of transformer steel by the Alstom international group. The highest category (category A) was allocated following the results of a production audit performed at the Lipetsk production site and at VIZ-Steel in Yekaterinburg by experts of the energy machine-building company. Ilya Guschin, NLMK vice president for Sales, said: "NLMK Group is the only manufacturer of transformer steel in Russia. The company's share in the Russian market for this type of high-tech product is 99%, and approximately 9% in the global market. Alstom auditors remarked on the high quality of NLMK Group companies in terms of technology, equipment and production control throughout the cycle. The fact that we were recognised as a top category supplier serves as yet another confirmation of the *effectiveness of our work as part of Strategy 2017, aimed at increasing the share of high value added products in our output.*" Transformer (grain-oriented) steel is used in the electrical engineering industry to manufacture the cores of transformers and the immobile parts of electric machines. NLMK Group's transformer steel production capacities are located in Lipetsk (100,000t per year) and Yekaterinburg (170,000t per year).