

Plymouth Tube Company acquires NAT from Nisshin

Plymouth Tube Company has announced that the company has completed its purchase of Nisshin Automotive Tubing, LLC (NAT), located in Versailles, KY, from Nippon Steel Nisshin Holding, Inc. The terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

Acquisition of the NAT plant will expand Plymouth Tube's capabilities and increase its participation in automotive tubing. President & CEO Drew Van Pelt remarked, "We are excited by the addition of NAT's laser welding technology to complement Plymouth's current welding technology. Together, the combined businesses will provide our customers in both automotive and non-automotive



markets a broader array of products and services to meet their evolving needs."

Please contact Holly Both, Vice President of Marketing or Ajay Ramaswami, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, with any questions related to this acquisition at 630-393-3550.

Plymouth Tube Company is a privately-held, family-owned precision

manufacturer of specialty carbon, alloy, stainless steel, and nickel alloy tubing.

Additionally, Plymouth produces stainless steel, nickel alloy and titanium extruded shapes and cold drawn shapes. Headquartered in Warrenville, Illinois with 9 plants in the U.S., all Plymouth mills are registered to ISO 9001:2015, IATF 16949:2016 or AS9100:2016.

Raccortubi's 70 years anniversary

Last year, Raccortubi celebrated its 70th anniversary. The company reports that, on this occasion, all its employees were involved into a great team building, with everyone contributing to the realization of the celebration party, held during the night.

The underlying concept was that Raccortubi Group offers tailor-made services to the market, thanks to its large availability of products off-the-shelf, and its production capacity, enabling to man-

ufacture special pieces to customers' drawing. Hence, what better event, than one created by the employees themselves?

A majestic Italian villa as setting (Villa Borromeo, Cassano d'Adda), good music, tasty food, and a high sense of commitment: these were just some of the ingredients that made Raccortubi's 70th birthday so special!

Some told the story of the Company in an engaging exhibition, others created the recipe for

Raccortubi's cocktail of yesterday and tomorrow, yet more decorated the location in the corporate style, some filmed the preparations and chose the music to accompany the party, whilst other colleagues invented games and entertainment (e.g. Raccortubi and Raccortubi bowling)...

Everybody gave his or her contribution and it was absolutely fundamental, as everybody's contribution has led the Group to where it is today.

Outokumpu: business review

Outokumpu has initiated a strategic review of business area Long Products as part of its process to determine optimal long-term business mix for the company. During the review, Outokumpu

will investigate multiple options regarding the business area's future including opportunities for consolidation within the stainless long products markets. The strategic review is

expected to be finalized during 2020.

In 2019, business area Long Products' net sales amounted to EUR 642M and adjusted EBITDA was EUR 7M.

Nippon Steel signs an agreement with Vallourec S.A.

Nippon Steel Corporation (Nippon Steel) has announced that it has reached an agreement with Vallourec S.A. (Vallourec), an important strategic partner in the pipe and tube business, regarding Nippon Steel's participation in the share capital increase proposed by Vallourec in the form of a rights offering to subscribe to new Vallourec shares, with preferential subscription rights for existing shareholders (the Rights Issue).

The strengthened financial stability of Vallourec will provide a robust foundation for Nippon Steel to continue the cooperation with Vallourec, which is an important strategic partner in the pipe and tube



business. Nippon will pursue to increase the profitability of its pipe and tube business by enhancing and accelerating, together with Vallourec, the development, industrialization and customer service regarding VAM premium joints, as well as improving the cost competitiveness of VSB. With this objective, Nippon

Steel has decided to subscribe to the new shares to be issued by Vallourec through the Rights Issue, aiming to hold approximately 10% of Vallourec's share capital upon completion of the Rights Issue. The total net amount to be newly invested by Nippon Steel is capped at EUR 35M.

Fortieth anniversary for WBMS's Sue Eales

In March this year the World Bureau of Metal Statistics (WBMS) celebrated Managing Director, Sue Eales' 40 year anniversary with the company. Sue began her career working in the agricultural sector analysing UK corn returns, her first job after finishing university where she studied maths. In 1980 Sue moved into the metals sector and never looked back. In 2002 Sue bought

the company and has spent her long career making sense of the data and making long term data series available to analysts all over the world. Highlights have included trips to Chile and Australia.

Of course, the best part of Sue's 40 years has been working with a wide range of wonderful clients across the globe, including both small and large companies.



S+C named as "Digital Champion – Company with a Future"

In its February 19, 2020 edition, Focus Money, a German business magazine reports on Germany's "companies of the future". For the first time, Lindlar-based stainless steel specialist Schmidt + Clemens (S+C) is named as a "Digital Champion – Company with a Future".

"We are very proud to be awarded this distinction by Focus-Money and Deutschlandtest," says managing partner and CEO Jan Schmidt-Krayer. "It shows that our strategic decisions of the last few years are proving successful." In its corporate strategy document "Ambition

2020", the world market leader in tube systems for the petrochemical industry had already defined visions and measures designed to make the company also fit for the future.

In the category "High Grade Steel Producer", S+C rank in position 3. To assist in moving new technologies forward, S+C is also involved in the "Innovation Hub Bergisches Rheinland", which is currently being created on the Steinmüllergelände, a former industrial site in Gummersbach. In a close cooperation between the Technical University, industry bodies and busi-

ness enterprises, a research center is being formed that brings together the Faculties of Machine Engineering and Computer Science and is tasked with developing new technologies for the future with a practical approach.

In addition to the parent plant in Germany, the Schmidt + Clemens Group also has production facilities in Spain, the Czech Republic, Malaysia, and Saudi-Arabia. The product range also includes components for use in separation technology, energy engineering, industrial furnace construction, and the pump industry.

GSOL is expanding its ferronickel business

According to an article published by Reuters, during a conversation with one of its executives, the private equity fund GSOL has grown in five years to be the world's second biggest producer of stainless steel ingredient ferronickel, and it is holding talks about further potential acquisitions.

As denoted by Marcos Camhis, the

Global Special Opportunities Ltd (GSOL) fund aims to boost its output of 50,000 tonnes a year of ferronickel both by expanding its current two operations and potential new takeovers.

Since 2015, GSOL has revived the Falcondo operation in the Dominican Republic, which it bought from Glencore, and reopened

the ferronickel plant in North Macedonia.

At Falcondo, where output had been suspended by Glencore, GSOL-backed Americano Nickel restarted one production line in 2016 and a second in 2018 and has now ramped up to around 30,000 tonnes a year of nickel contained in ferronickel.

Perryman commissions two new titanium melting furnaces

Titanium producer Perryman Co. commissioned two new furnaces at its California, PA, plant, systems designed and built by Retech Systems LLC. At that time, Perryman explained it would more than double its titanium melting capacity with the addition of a new electron-beam (EB) furnace and a new vacuum arc remelt (VAR) furnace.

An electron-beam furnace uses a high-energy, electron beam under vacuum to deliver heat to the titanium or other material being melted.



At Perryman, EB melting is used to produce electrodes weighing up to 12,500 lbs.

Vacuum arc remelting (VAR) is a secondary process that melts the

electrodes and refines the metal alloys using an electric arc under vacuum, to produce metal ingots, which become feedstock for forging or rolling.