

Gazprom, Russian pipe makers sign Sci-Tech Cooperation



Gazprom Management Committee gave a task at the meeting with the heads of pipe manufacturing companies in Vyksa last September to work out the Programs with due consideration of the need to expand the scope of import substitution

resistance, heat-insulated and highly tight-threaded ones, as well as those intended for offshore gas production and operation in a hostile environment. Onshore gas pipelines will be constructed using large-diameter pipes of high strength – up to K90 (X120) (K65 (X80) pipes are used now) – fit for operation under super-high pressure. Such pipes will allow reducing steel consumption for future gas pipelines as well as cutting down the costs of long-distance gas transmission due to a smaller number of compressor stations.

The new solutions will be needed, primarily in development operations on the Yamal Peninsula, Eastern Siberia and the Far East. While running the Programs, Gazprom will provide organizational and consultancy support and the pipe manufacturers will set up the corresponding innovative R&D and engineering activities.

The Gazprom headquarters hosted the signing of Sci-Tech Cooperation Programs over 2015 to 2020 among Gazprom and major Russian pipe manufacturers: the United Metallurgical Company, Severstal, the Pipe Metallurgical Company and the Chelyabinsk Pipe Rolling Plant.

Mr Alexey Miller chairman of the

activities.

The Programs will contribute to higher construction and operation efficiency of gas production, transmission and processing facilities equipped in accordance with the latest and strictest requirements. The pipe manufacturers are going to expand their product range and raise its marketability.

The Programs also provide for pilot manufacturing of pipes of higher cold

First Quantum starts Zambian copper mine operations

Bloomerg reported that First Quantum Minerals Limited is starting up a Zambian copper mine to feed an USD 850 million smelter. The Canadian producer began operating last month amid friction between the mining industry and government over tax changes.

Mr. John Gladston, spokesman of First Quantum in Zambia, said that “Kansanshi Smelter will produce 300,000 to 350,000 tonne of copper a year. The USD 1.9 billion Sentinel mine will produce 270,000 to 300,000 tonne of copper metal in concentrate annually.”

Mr. Gladston said that the Vancouver-based company with operations from Africa to Australia this year delayed plans to almost double the size of the smelter due to Zambia's fiscal uncertainty. A new tax regime from January 1st is another issue.

Mr. Alexander Chikwanda's, Finance Minister, budget including a law replacing corporate income tax for mining companies with higher royalties won approval last month from parliament. Levies will increase to 20% from 6% for open-cast mines and expand to 8% from 6% for underground mines.

Mr. Gladston said that “That's removing any capital-expenditure incentive and reinforcing First Quantum's postponement decision, a decision that leaves the country with a continued deficit in copper smelting capacity.”



EMJ to open new facility

Earle M Jorgensen Company (EMJ), a national metals service center, has announced that it will be opening a new 65,000 square-foot distribution center in the Union Corporate Center.

EMJ's relocation from its current location in Earth City, which employs 30 people, is expected to occur sometime in the third quarter of 2015. The Union Development Corporation was instrumental in aiding EMJ in its search for a suitable site for the new facility.

EMJ is a leading supplier of steel and aluminium bar, tubing, and plate to manufacturing companies in North America and around the world. Its broad network of facilities, superior inventories, extensive value-added processing capabilities, and world-class technology enable EMJ to provide unsurpassed service to its customers.

Mr. Robert Borgmann, president of the Union Development Corporation said that “We are very pleased to welcome EMJ to our community. They will be a great addition to the Union Corporate Center.”

Imported nickel ore stockpiles at Chinese ports dip

According to China Customs statistics, China's nickel ore imports totalled 2.85 million tonne in November down by 63.4% YoY as China's mills have increased their purchasing from Philippines because of Indonesia's ban on mineral ore exports.

It reported that stockpiles of imported nickel ore across 12 Chinese major ports totalled 20.15 million tonne on December 19th, dropping by 950,000 tonne from the previous period. Among them, inventories of nickel ore from Philippines totalled 13.7 million tonne, drooping by 550,000 tonnes. Meanwhile, nickel ore stocks from Indonesia totalled around 6.45 million tonne, declining by 400,000 tonne.