



Sherwin to shut down its Gregory alumina refinery



Glencore subsidiary Sherwin Alumina is poised to down the shutters of its alumina refinery in Gregory, Texas, said a union official. A federal bankruptcy judge has allowed more time to the 1.65 million mt/year operations to wind down its operations. The alumina refiner has accordingly notified the United Steelworkers union that it will close the facility, its most valuable asset.

According to the source, the bankruptcy judge said the exclusivity period for Sherwin Alumina to submit a plan now extends to December 31. Earlier the company had until September 30 to file a plan. Sherwin now have until March 1 to seek approvals of the plan unlike the earlier deadline of November 29.

Sherwin filed for bankruptcy in January 11, this year. The judge, in his order, found the latest extension of exclusivity period to be in the best interests of the debtors' estates, their creditors, and other parties in interest.

Sherwin in its filing has said it intends to propose a reorganization plan with regulatory agencies soon reflecting clearly the terms of the closure plan and the associated proposed sale of its alumina refinery assets to Corpus Christi Alumina, an affiliate of Commodity Funding.

CCA, Sherwin's senior secured lender, submitted a bid of \$54.5 million for the Gregory assets in a court-supervised auction in April

Saudi Arabian's subsidiary started commercial production at Alumina Refinery

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The company said in a statement that production will reach maximum annual capacity of 1.8 million tonnes of alumina by early 2017, meeting Ma'aden's domestic requirement of 1.4 million tonnes for its smelter and allowing the surplus to be sold elsewhere in the region and internationally.

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SMS Group to supply New Cold Rolling Mill

Henan Mingtai Al. Industrial Co., Ltd., located in Gongyi, China has awarded SMS group the order to supply a six-high cold rolling mill for wide aluminium strips.

The wide range of products to be rolled on the new cold mill, including grades from soft to hard from the alloy groups AA1xxx to 8xxx, strip widths up to 2,650 millimetres, and strip for body-in-white automotive applications, makes particular demands on the production equipment. Henan Mingtai therefore decided for a cold rolling mill in six-high design, using the highly flexible CVCplus® roll shifting technology from SMS group.

The new cold rolling mill will make Henan Mingtai the owner of the fourth aluminium cold mill from SMS group for strip wider than 2.6 meters in China.

The high strip quality will be ensured by the well-proven interaction of CVCplus®, multi-spot work roll cooling as well as work-roll and intermediate-roll bending system.

The phenomenon of tight edges which is typical during cold rolling of aluminium will



be tackled by the new inductive roll barrel heating system. This most compact and efficient technology ensures precise heating of the work rolls in the strip-edge area and needs only part of the energy consumed by a conventional control system using hot rolling oil (hot edge spray systems).

All core components of the mechanical equipment will be manufactured in the workshops of SMS group in Germany and offer the customer excellent equipment quality as a basis for highest quality of the rolled products.

With the confidence placed again in the experience and quality of SMS group, the order for this new mill increases the long list of references to now 33 orders received from China for the supply of aluminium cold rolling mills built by SMS group.