



## EGA acquired seven awards at 'Ideas America'

Innovation driven aluminium giant Emirates Global Aluminium (EGA) bagged seven awards at the Ideas America, the leading professional association that assists organisations internationally in idea management. EGA has participated in this annual conference and associated competition since 2002. This year's awards bring the total number of Ideas America awards won by EGA in various categories over the years to 43.

"Our achievements regularly receive independent recognition through regional and international accolades, confirming the world-class calibre of our people," says Abdulla Kalban, MD & CEO of EGA, adding that the company has again emerged on the top of the leader board at the 2016 Ideas America Idea of the Year Competition.

All four of the EGA employee shortlisted suggestions to the contest as finalists, and went on to win one gold, one silver and two bronze awards. The winning entries are:



- Green Idea of the Year – Gold – Eliminate continuous coke spillage at supplementary screen, submitted by Julieta Monceda and Michael Alberca from Dock Operations, Jebel Ali Operations.
- Safety Idea of the Year – Silver – Rod Falling Prevention in Rodding Plant, submitted by Praveen Kumar Rai, Qurban Ali Naz and Arun Kapoor from Carbon Maintenance, Al Taweelah Operations.
- Idea of the Year – Bronze – Design Easy Recovery System in Bath Blow Charging Vehicle, submitted by Sivakumar

and R.K Sharma from CMS & Mobile Fleet, Potroom Maintenance, Jebel Ali Operations.

- Green Idea of the Year – Bronze – Welding Flexible Instead of Clamping to Reduce Joint Drops, submitted by Zakir Hussain, SF Jaleel, R Joseph and PV Rao from Preheat & Pot Repair, Jebel Ali Operations.

The winners were announced at a gala dinner during the 2016 Ideas America Conference, which took place in Atlanta, Georgia, from 13 to 15 September.

"EGA is very proud to be associated with Ideas America, and delighted to have won another seven awards," says Kalban. "Our consistent success in international competitions such as this confirms that the EGA culture of innovation and continually striving for excellence truly brings out the best in our people, while simultaneously contributing to greater efficiency and productivity in our operations and corporate support services."

## NALCO to review \$2 Billion Smelter Project in Iran



The government has directed state-run aluminium maker NALCO to reconsider it over \$2 billion project for setting up a gas-fired thermal power plant and a smelter in Iran.

NALCO has been in the process of setting up a 5 lakh tonnes aluminium smelter in Iran, where it can get natural gas at cheap rates. Power accounts for 40 percent of the input costs in making aluminium.

"Our priority is to reduce imports under the 'Make in India' initiative, hence we have asked them to revisit their decision to process alumina in Iran," Mines Secretary Balvinder Kumar said. The focus is to increase India's capabilities and make the 'Make in India'

initiative a huge success, he added.

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Iran in May, NALCO had inked a MoU with the Iranian Mines & Mining Industries Development & Renovation Organisation (IMIDRO) to jointly explore possibility of setting up

the smelter. The pact also envisaged tolling arrangement with existing smelters in Iran for producing aluminium from alumina supplied by Nalco. The move was aimed at making

NALCO a low-cost alumina producer and helps it compete in global markets by leveraging low-cost power available in the Middle-East. This will help produce alumina at a competitive cost and tackle China, the world's biggest aluminium producer.

It takes around \$1,400-1,700 to produce one tonne of aluminium metal, with alumina and power each accounting for 40 percent of the costs and other raw materials the remaining 20 percent.

India, which is facing a spate of cheap imports from China and some Middle East nations that is adversely impacting its domestic producers, expects demand for the metal to hit as much as 5 million tonnes by 2020.

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