

ILZDA workshop sees a bright future

A “National Workshop on Lead Batteries in Solar Energy & Electric Vehicles– Challenges & Opportunities” was organized by India Lead Zinc Development Association (ILZDA). The event was held in association with its affiliate body Battery Society of India (BSI) as well as co-sponsors Amara Raja Batteries Ltd, Luminous Power Technologies Pvt.Ltd, Black Diamond Structures LLC, Eastman Auto & Power Ltd, Exide Industries Ltd, Federation of Indian Small Scale Battery Associations, Solar Energy Society of India, Society of Manufacturers of Electric Vehicles, Supreme Batteries Pvt Ltd, Nile Ltd, Firefly Batteries Pvt. Ltd & Deepak International Ltd. About 150 delegates representing various interests and stakeholders attended the workshop. Three keynote addresses and fourteen thought-provoking technical presentations were made, followed by meaningful discussions between the speakers and the participants. A Panel Discussion Session also took place between a panel of experts and the delegates. The comparative merits and demerits of Lead Batteries and Lithium Ion Batteries were discussed in detail. In view of its proven advantages, economic affordability and easy recyclability, it was felt that lead acid batteries will continue to dominate the emerging applications also Solar Energy & Electric Vehicles in the decades to come.



NAPCO revenue surges 28 percent



- Robert Holtkamp, CEO, NAPCO

National Aluminium Products Company (Napco), one of the leading extruders of aluminium profiles in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), has registered a remarkable performance for 2015, achieving robust growth volume in the local market as well as exports.

The company earned revenues of OMR24.8 million, compared to OMR19.4 million in 2014, representing an increase of 28 per cent. In addition, Napco has gained a net profit of OMR0.78 million in comparison to OMR0.70 million in the previous year, registering a growth of 11 per cent.

Despite a challenging business environment for the aluminium extrusion industry, Napco has managed to increase the capacity utilisation of its existing plant, widen its product offerings, improve client services, and increase its focus on market initiatives, penetrating deep into domestic sectors to capture a wider market share.

Moreover, the management implemented dynamic strategies throughout the year to enhance cost efficiencies in the future.

“The rock-bottom prices of crude oil have impacted the construction sector, which in turn has affected the aluminium extrusion industry. Nevertheless, we are optimistic about the government projects in the region, especially in infrastructure development and building construction, boosting our volume orders in Oman and the rest of the GCC in 2016,” said Robert Holtkamp, chief executive officer of Napco.

“In the near-term, Napco is bullish about the growth opportunities in established and new markets by offering improved services and products. Supported by a strong team, the

management will continue to pursue its strategy of creating long-term value for all stakeholders while ensuring sustainability in operations to attain operational excellence,” Robert added. To complement its growth plans, Napco has installed two additional extrusion presses in a phased manner and a vertical powder coating plant, which will commence commercial production by end of April 2016. The estimated cost of the expansion is OMR7 million, including related civil construction of a new factory.

Napco has been part of several landmark projects in Oman and the rest of the region. Its current portfolio in Dubai includes Citywalk, an upcoming retail destination on the junction of Al Wasl and Safa Roads; Onyx Tower, a 3-tower commercial project close to Emaar Business Park on Sheikh Zayed Road; and Dubai Design District (d3), an ambitious and innovative purpose-built destination for creatives.

In addition, it is working on Abu Dhabi Plaza, a mixed-use development underway in Astana, Kazakhstan. Napco’s long list of developments comprise the Supreme Court in Muscat, Salalah Airport, the Dubai International Airport Expansion (UAE), the BurjKhalifa (UAE), and the Al Rayyan Complex (UAE), to name a few.