



Vedanta plans to produce 1.7 million tonne aluminium output this fiscal



Vedanta Limited is chalking out plans to produce 1.7 million tonne of aluminium this fiscal through a capacity ramp-up at Balco and Odisha's Jharsuguda plants. "Ever since April 1 this year, we have been ramping up our aluminium lines at Balco and Odisha. We would expect that all the Balco lines would be raised this year," Vedanta Limited Group CEO Tom Albanese said.

Anil Agarwal-led company is a major shareholder at Balco in Chhattisgarh and Jharsuguda plant in Odisha. "In Odisha, we have four new pot lines that we would be ramping up," he said. "That would get us to total annualised production capacity of about 1.6-1.7 million tonnes of aluminium per year and I would compare it with last year's aluminium production level of about 900 thousand tonnes."

The company is also looking to commission pot lines five and six at the Odisha facility.

DRDO transfers Copper-Titanium alloy to Pahwa Metal Tech for manufacturing



The Defence Research and Development Organisation have transferred its indigenously developed Copper-Titanium technology to Pahwa Metal Tech Private Limited, a Pune-based startup founded by industry veteran Lalit Kumar Pahwa for manufacture of this alloy.

This transfer was made by the DRDO-FICCI Accelerated Technology Assessment and Commercialisation (ATAC) initiative, coinciding with the launch of the 'Startup India' initiative by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 16, 2016. An MoU, which was exchanged between DRDO and PMTPL on the same day to start the technology transfer process, has now been completed.

The technology has been developed at the Defence Metallurgical Research Lab (DMRL), Hyderabad, a premier DRDO lab on metallurgical research domain, and relates to a process of manufacturing of Copper Titanium alloy, using air induction and vacuum induction melting. The alloy thus made has non-sparking characteristics and possesses high strength and electrical

conductivity comparable to existing Copper Beryllium (CuBe₂) alloy alternatives. The application areas of the alloy are diverse and range from industrial machinery to aerospace. The completion of the technology transfer shall pave way for manufacture of the alloy for the first time in India for global customer base.

S. Radhakrishnan, Director, Directorate of

Industry Interface and Technology Management, DRDO, in a statement said, "The successful transfer of DRDO developed Copper-Titanium technology is a testament of the commercialisation potential of research done at DMRL, DRDO's premier research lab for metallurgy. We are hopeful to see the technology being employed in wider application areas. The technology transfer shall enable Pahwa MetalTech Pvt Ltd. to manufacture the Copper-Titanium alloy for the first time in India."

With close to 100 MoUs for technology transfer signed till date under its aegis, the DRDO FICCI ATAC platform has provided an impetus to the 'Make in India' initiative by enabling private sector players to acquire DRDO technologies and manufacture for wider applications and customer base.

Lalit Kumar Pahwa, CEO & MD, PMTPL said, "As a startup, PMTPL is excited to launch this 'Made in India' technology for the world that shall have application in several sectors of the economy."

MMG's Las Bambas copper mine acquires commercial production in Peru

MMG Ltd's Las Bambas copper mine in Peru achieved commercial production on July 1. "The date of commencement of commercial



production marks the time from which the site will be treated as an operation rather than a project for accounting purposes," the company said in a statement on July 7. The confirmed ramp up of the plant has been achieved on schedule and commercial production reached in line with guidance to the market, CEO, Andrew Michelmore said.

"Las Bambas is a world class operation that is transformational to MMG. Its successful ramp up delivers on our commitment to drive value for shareholders," he said. "MMG is emerging as a major copper player continuing to invest in the down cycle with the support of its major shareholder China Minmetals Corporation."

MMG produced 31,470 tonnes of copper in copper concentrates in the first quarter of 2016. The first shipment from port of Matarani on January 15 arrived at Nanjing port on March 20. Copper production at Las Bambas started in the fourth quarter of 2015, with first concentrate production achieved on November 26, 2015.

MMG had said its production guidance for Las Bambas was 250,000-300,000 tonnes of copper concentrate in 2016. The company will provide a production update on July 28. Peru overtook Chile in May as China's largest copper concentrate supplier.