



Brazilian aluminium export surges 25.6% in June

Brazil's primary aluminium exports grew 25.6% in June on an annual basis, as local producers sought to offset weak domestic demand.

Shipments came to 30,681 tonnes in June, against 24,435 tonnes a year earlier, according to figures from Brazil's foreign trade ministry, MDIC, released on July 5.

Yet revenues from exports of Brazilian aluminium increased only 2.2% in June from a year earlier, to \$46.9 million on a fob basis, affected by lower prices and premiums.

As usual, Japan was the main destination for Brazil's primary aluminium with an intake of 13,693 tonnes in June, the ministry said.

All volumes were from the northern state of Pará, where Albras smelter operates. The

company is 51% owned by Norsk Hydro and 49% by Japanese consortium NAAC.

Netherlands was the destination for 11,658 tonnes of Brazilian primary aluminium in June, from no shipments a year earlier. Most volumes were from Pará state (9,632 tonnes).

Italy ranked third, with an intake of 4,094 tonnes of Brazilian aluminium also from no shipment the year before.

All volumes were sent from the south eastern state of São Paulo, where Votorantim's CBA smelter operates.



Year-to-date, Brazil's aluminium exports were up by 20.3% from the corresponding months of 2015, to 179,613 tonnes, the ministry said.

But export revenues dropped 11.2% in the first half of 2016 from a year earlier, to \$269.8 million fob.

NALCO appoints Basant Kumar Thakur as a new Director

Basant Kumar Thakur (56) has assumed the office of Director (HR) of National Aluminium Company Limited (Nalco), a Navratna company, under Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India. Prior to this assignment, he was with Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) as



General Manager (Personnel). Thakur brings along rich and varied experiences in the management of Human Resources and Industrial Relations.

During his 34-year tenure in SAIL, he served in various units, including Durgapur Steel Plant, Bokaro Steel Plant, Salem Steel Plant, R&D Centre in Ranchi and Corporate Office in New Delhi. Besides HR, Thakur also looked after Public Relations and CSR for 5 years in SAIL. Thakur is a life member of NIPM and has received the Golden Peacock Award for Excellence in HR. His induction to Nalco Board shall further strengthen the company.

Avanco Resources achieves commercial production at Antas copper mine in Brazil

Avanco Resources has achieved commercial production at its Antas copper mine in Brazil's northern region of Carajas, the company said. "Following the highly successful commissioning and ramp-up of the Antas copper project, commercial production has been declared effective from July 1, 2016," Avanco said.

The commercial production involves an annualised output of 12,000 tonnes of copper-in-concentrate. "Management believes Antas production can likely be increased to 15,000 tpy by 2018 as a result of additional ore supply from Pedra Branca and or new near-mine discoveries," Avanco Resources said.

The company added that "Antas was built on time, under budget with an exceptional commissioning and ramp-up performance during the second quarter of 2016." Over the past three months, the mine has been showing a steady-state production of nearly 1,000 tpm of clean copper concentrates.

The mine produced about 3,117 tonnes of copper and in the second quarter of 2016, according to preliminary figures. Production guidance for the third quarter is for nearly 3,000 tonnes of copper, Avanco Resources



said. The company also indicated that a future development of the nearby Pedra Branca underground project has the potential to increase Avanco's output to nearly 50,000 tpy of copper in four to five years.

"Our study of an initial, smaller-scale operation is at an advanced stage as a precursor to full-scale development," the company said.

Avanco Resources has institutional shareholders Blackrock World Mining Trust, Appian Natural Resources Fund, Greenstone Resources and Glencore. It either owns or holds the rights to 100% of the second largest area of mineral tenure in the Carajas region, behind Vale.