

## Constellium Expands Aluminum Casthouse Capacity in Decin, Czech Republic

Constellium Extrusions Děčín s.r.o., Czech Republic, has placed an order with Hertwich Engineering, a company of SMS group, for a further continuous homogenizing plant including a helical ultrasonic testing station and billet saw for aluminum extrusion billets. With a capacity of nine tons per hour, the new homogenizing furnace is considerably larger and more powerful than the plant for three tons per hour delivered in 2016. It is scheduled to go into operation in the first half of 2019.

The Děčín plant is part of the multinational Constellium network and is one of the leading manufacturers of aluminum extrusion products in Europe. The plant is particularly important as an integrated manufacturer and processor of hard and soft alloys as well as a supplier of extruded, partially drawn tubes, bars, seamless and non-seamless profiles. The increasing demand, especially from the automotive industry, has prompted Constellium to expand the Děčín plant in several investment stages.



The new homogenizing capacities are part of the current programme, which is aimed at expanding extrusion capacity. For this purpose, a further extrusion plant including a casthouse is planned, for which Hertwich will supply the entire heat treatment in the form of a continuous homogenizing furnace.

The concept of continuous homogenization, first introduced by Hertwich in 1980, has now established itself with a share of about two thirds of the worldwide market for billet production. Particularly advantageous are the suitability of the process for automation and, above all, the uniform

heating over the entire billet volume.

The continuous homogenizing operation starts by placing the billets, lifted out of the casting pit, onto the log entry table in front of the furnace. The billets arranged next to each other pass the heating zone and the holding zone and are then transferred into the cooling station. The new furnace has a capacity of nine tons of aluminum billets per hour in the diameter range between 250 and 385 millimeters with billet lengths of 4 to 7.5 meters. As a special feature, the cooling station comes with an intensive noise insulation that drastically reduces the noise level.

The cooled billets are inspected by an ultrasonic testing station. In accordance with the high quality standard, a helical testing station is used at this point, in which two probes positioned in relation to each other are moved along the rotating log in axial direction. The control system stores any detected defects and removes them during the subsequent sawing process.

## NALCO registers robust growth upto 3rd Quarter



National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), the Navratna PSU, under Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India and country's leading manufacturer and exporter of alumina and aluminium, has declared its financial results for & upto 3 rd quarter ended December 2017.

According to the reviewed financial results for the 3 rd quarter of the financial year 2017-18 taken on record by the Board in the meeting held at Bhubaneswar today, NALCO has achieved a record net profit of Rs.722 crore (growth of 207%), as against Rs.235 crore in the preceding quarter and Rs. 144 crore in the corresponding quarter of previous fiscal. The net sales in the 3 rd Quarter was Rs.2,360 crore. With this, the

company has been able to break the highest-ever net profit figures in a quarter during the last ten years.

Similarly, the net profit for the 9 months ended December 2017 works out to Rs.1,085 crore (growth of 171%), against the corresponding figure of Rs. 400 crore for the previous fiscal. The net sales for the 9 months of the fiscal are Rs.6,538 crore as compared to Rs. 5,071 crore in the corresponding period of the last financial year. NALCO has also achieved record growth in production in all fronts. During the first nine months of the current fiscal, NALCO achieved production of 54.40 lakh tonnes of bauxite, as compared to 53.23 lakh tonnes achieved during the comparable period of the previous fiscal. The company produced 15.51 lakh tonnes of alumina hydrate, against 15.27 lakh tonnes achieved in the corresponding period of the previous financial year.

Metal production was 3.17 lakh

tonnes, against 2.86 lakh tonnes during the comparable nine months of the previous fiscal registering a growth of 11 %. The net power generated during the period was 4,897 million units up by 9%, compared to 4,494 million units achieved in the corresponding period of the previous year. As a committed and responsible green power producer the company has generated 211 million units of wind power during the first 9 months of this fiscal.

Operational efficiency, cost reduction, strategic management decisions and team work of NALCO played a key role in achieving the record profit.

“With robust monetary policy of the Government and demand-supply dynamics brightening, aided by growth in the construction and power sectors, pick-up in the automobile segment as well as firming up of aluminium prices globally, we hope to post similar results in the next mandate,” said Dr. Tapan Kumar Chand, CMD, NALCO.