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Devoted to Foundry & Non-Ferrous Metals Industry

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Subodh Panchal MoRTH vehicle scrappage policy to boost the demand of new vehicles and castings

- "DIGITAL IS THE (NEW) NORMAL" 10 MISCONCEPTIONS WHEN IT COMES TO DIGITALISATION OF METAL CASTING OPERATIONS
- Key challenges and opportunities for the Indian Aluminium industry

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D. A. Chandekar Editor

Dear Readers,

During our engineering days, we used to believe 'Till the time Phase Diagrams do not change, basic metallurgy and thus the metals industry can not change'. Jokes apart but this was the sincere belief of we metallurgists at the time of passing engineering. While the metallurgists have studied every line and curve of this fundamental governing diagrams of various phases of metals and alloys, the others may also have heard of it.

Those were the years when the other industries, especially the IT sector was going through a great transition. Every six months or so, we used to hear about a new language, a new platform or a new software. Lot of innovation was taking place and steering the industry ahead. An IT professional got to update himself every year or so in order to be in the game. In a way, their learning never used to get completed. We (atleast I) used to think that we working in metallurgical sector are guite lucky that we don't have to study every now and then to keep ourselves updated. That much research activity, may be happening at research institutes, but was not getting absorbed and adopted by the industry. The result was guite obvious. Years after years, the industry used to follow same old processes, techniques and procedures. Very rarely we used to hear about some innovation or a new process, otherwise for many years, the industry was proceeding exactly

Editorial Desk



as per the metallurgy text books. No change at all !

All this changed when India opened up its economy in 1991 and along with many economic measures, metals sector too was opened up. This meant that the existing quota system and the liasence regime was going to be abolished. The metal prices will be no more controlled by the government and will be influenced by the market forces, domestic as well as international. This completely changed the environment and the sentiment of this conventional industry. The industry was now exposed to the global marketplace which exponentially increased the opportunities as well as the competitions. The pressure of producing quality metals at minimum price and delivering in minimum time span started mounted and all this nesseciated the innovative approach, new technologies, latest processes etc. in order to be competitive. On environmental front, today metals production is no longer a dirty business. Even a sponge iron unit, which one time used to be full of carbon dust, is now a neat and clean place. Many steel plants proudly announce that they are a zero emission plant. And yes, now the industry continuously discusses innovations and adopts them on a regular basis, on the shop floor and also in the office. Finally the metallurgists have to again go back to basics, re-examine every process and think if there can be a better alternative

Few years back, we used to cry that there is no synergy between the industry and the research bodies but now I must admit that the scenario is changing very fast. New technologies, processes are being employed and the industry is constantly in 'upgradation mode' !

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Face to Face

MoRTH vehicle scrappage policy to boost the demand of new vehicles and castings

Subodh Panchal, Chairman Organising Committee, 70th Indian Foundry Congress, Past President, The IIF, Executive Council Member of WFO, BRICS, China FdyAsso, Asia Foundry Forum,.

How is the foundry sector recovering from the pandemic?

During covid-19 second pandemic waves, the casting demand remained above normal level during last one



year. But due to various reasons like logistic, manpower, shortage of raw materials and crazy price increases of commodity, delay in acceptance by the customers, foundries could not reached to normal production level. At present also prices

of inputs are very high especially shortage of containers and increase of more than 50% in shipping charges have affected very badly to import of ferro Alloys, scrap, and other inputs.

Last year, India has imported ferrous scrap worth Rs 23,000 crore. Ministry of Road, Highways & Transport (MoRTH) has declared a Vehicle Scrappage Policy recently by making fitness test of all vehicles mandatory from 2023.In his speech while declaring vehicle scrappage policy, Hon Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari ji estimated, that out of 215 million vehicles in the country, 28 million vehicles would be scrapped. This will ease the



availability of the scrap and may give boost to the demand of new vehicles and castings as a result.

How are the preparations going on for Feb 22 IFEX?

The preparation of IFEX 22 is in full swing, more than 80% space has been booked even though event is still six months away. We have been assuredby Exhibition organizer company to give the full refund in casewe cancel the event due to Pandemic.

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Why was the venue for IFEX shifted from Mumbai to Ahmedabad?

Earlier, we had paid the booking amount to NESCO Exhibition Centre, Goregaon with the anticipation that the corona will not be much serious. Later that exhibition premises has been converted in the Corona Centre which is still there. There is no other venue of Mumbai of this size to meet the requirement of IFEX.

Therefore, We had two options, either to cancel the event and deprive the exhibitors for two years or to take a chance in another venue. Luckily Helipad , Gandhinagar was available on suitable dates of 18-19-20 Feb 2022. We had already organized 66th IFC and IFEX in 2018 in the same venue. It's the largest venue not only in Western India but also in top three in India.

What will IFEX comprise of and how are you going to ensure that it will be successful?

Due to our refund assurance, already 80% booking has been done. There will be less participation from foreign countries but since good growth of about 12% in the first quarter , we are hoping good participation from Indian industry. The Exhibition Organiser K and D Communication Ltd has his own regular Event ENGIMECH which has more than 50,000 foot falls in January 22.. We will promote IFEX there for the visitors point of view.

What if covid 3rd or 4th wave hits us?

We will review the situation on 15th Dec, 2021 (two months in advance.) and accordingly will take the decision to continue or not. If we will be compelled to

cancel it, we will have Plan B ready with us. It is too early to reveal its details at this movement.



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"DIGITAL IS THE (NEW) NORMAL" 10 MISCONCEPTIONS WHEN IT COMES TO DIGITALISATION OF METAL CASTING OPERATIONS

ABSTRACT AND INTRODUCTION

"Foundry 4.0" in digital transformation and the 10 most common misconceptions that lead to the failure of digitalization projects

especially in foundry

- Digitalization and digital transformation lead to fundamental changes in the business world.
- It has an impact not only on technology but on the entire organization. This counts especially for metal casting operations!!
- The Covid-19 pandemic is putting external pressure on these operations as

many aren't prepared to work with 50% (or less) of their workforce from home.

- There are many reasons why digital transformation fails!
- IT IS a hot topic, but nobody seems to know exactly how to tackle it.
 Simply putting a team on the job – without a budget and without a clear goal – is by no means digitalization and/or digital transformation.
- Many hope to remain competitive by making small changes to their processes. Usually, however, the approach is



Christian Kleeberg Managing Partner RGU Asia Pte Ltd



Dileep Yadav Director FRP & Consulting Pvt Ltd

just too narrow. Contrary to popular misconception, digitalization or digital transformation is NOT an IT project – it is an organizational transformation in which structures have to be changed in order to achieve strategic goals. Some companies are mastering it with bravura and some fail miserably and fall into the trap of continued business decline.

- This is all too often underestimated and the cultural aspects of structural change are not sufficiently considered.
- Understanding the

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challenges means understanding the way how to succeed. Understanding what doesn't work and what is also outright wrong in digitalization and digital transformation of metal casting operations will lead to immediate improvements and ultimate success even under the most difficult business climates prevailing.

Misconception no. 1: It is sufficient for the

management team to initiate the process Digitalization or digital transformation is a feat of strength and requires profound change. Therefore, the management team must also be prepared to fundamentally change their attitude.

When a project affects several areas of the organization, directly impacting staff and practices, the role of the Management Board is not just to initiate the process, approve budgets and sign a contract. In practice, however, this is often how leaders see their own role. For the full duration of the project, the management team must be a point of contact for staff, trust those responsible for the project, and equip them

with the necessary decision-making authority to ensure that the project runs smoothly. Only then will the change be successful throughout the entire organization.

Misconception no. 2: Everyone loves modern solutions

During a change process, employees can become demotivated, if they lose faith or fail to understand the ultimate goal. For many, the first reaction is to resist change. Some employees fear for their jobs. Others are afraid of losing influence because they no longer have a monopoly on information, and for others, it is the fear that their work will now be more closely controlled. For everyone involved such projects mean more work. The data transparency involved will result in higher employee transparency. Certain businesses are used to that, others are not and in metal casting many even say the foundry is "a black hole", where something comes out after putting something in but nobody really knows why and how this happens and how much it precisely cost. Corporate management must recognize these fears and from the word go provide targeted

information: Why the new system is necessary? Why do working methods need to be changed? How the individual staff members can benefit from it? Only then can a common vision, acceptance, and understanding emerge. Communication is, therefore, an essential component on the way to a successful digitalization and digital transformation project.

Misconception no. 3: Digitalization - the IT guys can take care of it The topic of digitalization is often placed in the hands of the "IT guys". But as said before, digitalization is not an IT project. When choosing a suitable project manager, it is not only IT skills that are required. On the contrary, soft skills such as communication, empathy, and credibility are more important than technical skills, when it comes to extensive digitalization and the selection of the right change agents.

In contrast to the project manager, the key users should have the necessary specialist and crossdepartmental knowledge. Because they are the ones who formulate the requirements for a digitalized and more efficient infrastructure and are ultimately best equipped

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to evaluate the results.

- As for us being the experts in this digital transformation - we start ALWAYS at the core and that is a production planning and controlling using a dedicated digital twin approach (resource plan solution) that allows describing the process in its entirety. Once that core area is covered and mastered almost all other departments fall in place - one by one and one after the other.
- Misconception no. 4: THINK BIG – let's optimize everything in one shot!
- An efficient and productive workflow only emerges when crossdepartmental processes are well coordinated. That is why a digitalization and digital transformation

strategy should be implemented across the board.

However, this does not mean that you have to digitalize everything all at once and cannot initially concentrate on specific areas. On the contrary, it makes more sense to focus on key processes than to simply start in all departments.

In order to minimize risks, manageable and achievable goals should be set from the beginning and by the management. The key is to take small steps, rather than a "one hat fits all approach"! The MoSCoW method (Must, Should, Could, Won't), where requirements are prioritized according to their importance and impact is a proven tool for this. Misconception no. 5:

Trial and error is the way to go!

Digitalization and digital transformation in metal casting operations is not an end in itself but means farreaching investments that generate concrete added value – whether through higher sales and profits or through new customers.

The failure of the transformation, and the resulting impact on employees as well as customers and partners, must not be an option. In practice, there are countless examples of digitalization projects that were pursued over many years and in the end, had to be scrapped. Certainly, a setback that not many companies could survive unscathed.



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Key challenges and opportunities for the Indian Aluminium industry

Panel Discussion Synopsis of Indian Aluminium e-Summit-2021 organized by MetalWorld on 29th July 2021

The eminent panellist of industry experts and veterans deliberated on the key challenges and opportunities for the Indian Aluminium industry in the context of the above aspects includes :



The Covid19 pandemic, Climate change and rapid advents in artificial intelligence have been three important hallmarks of recent times. These have left many permanent marks on Society at large and the manufacturing industry.

Prominent among them are move towards resource conservation, nay resource nationalism; need to reduce the impact of manufacturing on climate change; uncertainty in on-site availability of operators and experts; and enhanced individual sensitivity towards personal priority towards health & safety.

For resource-intensive, environmentally-taxing commodity manufacturing industry like aluminium these hallmarks have caused a serious need to rethink our way of working. The panel of industry experts and veterans deliberated on the key challenges and opportunities for the Indian Aluminium industry in the context of the above aspects.

The discussion started with resource intensity of aluminium and the high input-output material ratio aluminium production demands. The amount of bauxite consumed (ratio 6-7), red mud waste generated (ratio 5-6), amount of the electrical energy consumed (15000 KWH/T), and GHG intensity (5-6 T CO2equivalent per T) and high environmental impact while generating the turnover, all make primary aluminium production environmentally unfriendly business. However, the unique set of properties of aluminium, enable its users to reduce their products'



Sadguru Kulkarni Business Head -TecTrans Associates Former President -Technology & Tech Services, Hindalco Industries Ltd. Former Principal Scientist - Hindustan Unilever Research Centre environmental impact to such an extent that overall life cycle impact of aluminium production and usage becomes highly favourable to the environment, thus leading to 'better than GDP' growth of the aluminium sector.

Downstream Aluminium sector: Over the last two decades China has earned itself the name as the manufacturing hub of the world; and it has been the major supplier of aluminium parts and challenging for the automobile industry as well, leaving their Indian counterparts far behind.

The bad name earned by China, in the context of the pandemic, has led the world to look for a second, dependable, quality supplier of aluminium castings. This offers a huge potential to the Indian Aluminium castings industry to be a sourcing point for the global auto industry.

However, according to Mr Anil Kulkarni, CMD of Pooja Castings Indian casting players, mostly MSME, have not upgraded themselves over the years in technology, equipment and scale; and its high time for the industry need

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to upgrade their capabilities expeditiously. He further explained that the Indian downstream aluminium industries in India are also subject to the uncertainty in primary metal prices, and without a legitimate compensation mechanism, they are at a loss. Mr Anil Kulkarni suggests that the authorities should take a serious view of the situation to enable the Indian casting industry to scale the heights offered by the China factor; and the industry should put up quality manufacturing systems, for alloy optimization, end product

quality to global

0

benchmarks. For extrusions business. some of the outcomes of the pandemic have been a blessing in disguise. For example, the rapid move to electric automobiles, to mitigate climate change and support the low-cost housing sector lead to some push for B&C products. However, according to Mr Rajat Agrawal, MD of **Bhoruka Extrusions** highlighted that the startstop operations during the pandemic posed a major challenge to the extrusion producers in terms of shortruns of the plant, uncertainties of supply of feed materials, and enhanced focus by the

One Day Digital Conference Indian Aluminium Summit 29th July 2021



customers on lead times, despatch tolerances, weight per meter as new demands from the customers etc made the Indian producers upgrade their manufacturing and back end processes. Some enlightened producers used this challenge to invest in IT.

In Building and Construction products, this opportunity was used to go a step closer to the end customer's requirement rather than living by technical specifications. This changed focus helped in creating differentiated products for B&C business, which would make the new implicit demands during and postpandemic, such as home as office/ school etc; and would provide a win-win situation for both extrusion manufacturer and end customer.

Raw material supply, such as bauxite import was facing serious uncertainties due to the supply chain and transportation nightmares of the pandemic have also taught us the importance of local raw material sourcing. While bauxite has been a global source of raw material for many plants, the need to utilize what is available locally has made many alumina producers return their plants, to suit such bauxite. This required extensive work to continuously optimize the plants to suit a variable raw material, for the best yield. Such continuous optimization brought up the need for digitalization across the supply chain and value chain, to enable utilization of real-time data. Thus Industry 4.0, which was 'desirable' before the pandemic, suddenly became an urgent need. This also rejuvenated the need to build sensors/ soft sensors for the metal industry, which is generally sparsely equipped with sensors, and this poses both a challenge and opportunity for the technology people. These needs will stay for the coming years- from supply chain to shop floor to market!

While enhancing the usage of aluminium in automobiles through light-weighting, electrification etc offers a big opportunity, the panel felt that the Indian auto service system may not be ready to support the automobiles on road, through aluminium repairs processes, aluminium welding etc. Dr R N Chauhan of Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research, Design & **Development Centre** (JNARDDC), Nagpur mentioned that while such

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technology may be available on an R&D lab scale, it needs to go to the mechanics and vendors, in right quality and cost, so that the use of aluminium is sustained. This requires India to invest in relevant know-how creation.

Sustainable business is another important focus in recent years. The global aluminium industry is addressing this through carbon credits, carbon tax, etc. renewable energy generation etc. Mr Apratim Dey, GM at Nalco was concerned about the poor focus on initiatives relevant Since many countries are likely to impose carbon tax from 2024, it is high time that the Indian Aluminium industry come together to encash this opportunity, through multiple means.

Mr Anil Kulkarni does not see such threat as of now, mainly because many downstream players make use of recycling aluminium, which has a lower environmental impact. Mr Rajat Agrawal also has not seen such demand from his customers, but has seen customers making contradictory demands such as 'Lead Certification' (which



to our processes, to meet the sustainability challenges.

He suggested the use of industry consortia, industryacademics-customers collaborations to develop India-relevant technologies. demands certification of a certain % of post-consumer recycle material) post as well as putting a constraint on the incorporation of recycling Aluminium! Recycle aluminium has

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become another important opportunity. The Import of recycling aluminium is now competing with the primary producers as a source of aluminium. Forming up a policy framework to facilitate increased recycling is a priority matter. Global primary producers and large customers in the EU have come together to form the ASI-Aluminium Stewardship Initiative, where the life environmental impact of their products is declared, against benchmarks. Exceeding such a benchmark will lead to a penalty and is lower than the benchmark can lead to monetizable benefits.

All panellists see the China factor as discussed earlier offers an excellent opportunity across the value chain for aluminium; and discussed what we as industry, as a country source from China. that we could start making in India, whether materials. products, or equipment and even technology. Many possibilities came out e.g. Product design & development based on aluminium; say products for the Indian and global markets, setting up an ecosystem for the same; working jointly between primary aluminium producers and downstream producers, so that both benefits; developing processing machinery to replace those currently sourced from China; developing our own processing technology for all stages of the value chain etc. If we prepare seriously, the future of the Aluminium Industry in India is bright.



News Update

Domestic aluminium makers to forge decade-high profitability

Domestic aluminium makers in the country are expected to forge a decade-high profitability, thanks to a robust demand outlook and limited global capacity additions and efficient cost structures. It is expected that the operating margins of the domestic aluminium makers are set to touch a decadal high of around 30 per cent in the current financial year, says a CRISIL report.

The report said global aluminium demand was expected to rise by 6-7 per cent this year, helped by the low base of 2020, when output had contracted 2 per cent following the Covid-19 pandemic.

The CRISIL report points out that the aluminium industry growth will also be driven by global economic recovery and increased spending on construction, infrastructure and electrification. With governments stepping up on green initiatives and sales of electric vehicles increasing, annual global aluminium demand will rise 3 per cent over calendar years from 2021-2025. However, global capacity addition is expected to trail at 1 per cent through 2025 on environmental concerns and emphasis on reducing emissions. It is also expected that limited capacity addition, amid the demand pull, will improve utilisation rates of aluminium smelters globally to 85 per cent this year from 80 per cent in 2020, and support healthy aluminium prices.

The report observes that domestic demand for aluminium is expected to grow by 10-12 per cent this fiscal after contracting 13-14 per cent during the last fiscal. Growth is expected to be propelled by higher demand from the construction, automotive and power sectors. As per the report, improved demand outlook and healthy realisations is expected to benefit domestic aluminium companies, which are interestingly among the lowest cost producers

in the world.

"Over the past three fiscal years, cost-competitiveness has resulted in Indian aluminium exports increasing to more than 50 per cent of annual production. There was a notable step-up last fiscal to offset declining domestic demand, which supported healthy utilisation rates. Overall, low cost of production and higher realisations will lift operating margins by 500 basis points this fiscal from 25 per cent seen last fiscal," the report notes.

"With a strong profitability outlook resulting in an annual operating profit of Rs 20,000 crore, and current operating rates close to 95 per cent, domestic producers will see increased capital expenditure intensity over the next 2-3 years," said Manish Gupta, Senior Director, CRISIL Rating. Experts at CRISIL state that domestic aluminium producers are looking to increase the share of downstream capacities to more than 35 per cent from 20 per cent over the medium term.

This will burnish realisations and strengthen business profiles. Experts point out that despite surplus aluminium production, India imports 30 per cent of its consumption, mainly finished products, whereas exports are mainly in the form of semi-finished products fetching lower realisation.

CRISIL experts also point out that additionally, downstream capital expenditure will lead to higher, and more stable, profitability for aluminium producers that will also drive improvement in credit metrics. Experts say that a sharper than expected correction in global aluminium prices, weaker global demand, or lower-than expected supply tightness would be main factors to watch out for the aluminium players.

RUSAL assists in launching the production of aluminium cast pipes



RUSAL announces that it has been working with the Lipetsk Pipe Company SvobodnySokol in the production of aluminium cast pipes which are comparable in quality to products made from conventional materials. The casting technology makes it possible to produce pipes with a diameter of up to 1 metre and a length of up to 6 metres for the needs of housing and utility services, oil and gas production, as well as fire extinguishing. In the near future, tests to evaluate the new high-strength alloy developed by RUSAL will be conducted, which will provide aluminium pipes with the same mechanical strength characteristics as steel and cast-iron pipes.

The price of aluminium pipes is comparable to that of high strength cast iron products. Notably, the weight of aluminium pipes is 3 times less than the weight of cast iron analogues. This ensures a reduction in the cost of

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News Update

transportation and installation of pipelines, which is especially important for difficult access area.

Roman Andryushin, Deputy CEO of UC RUSAL for Sales in Russia, the CIS, and China, commented:

'Aluminium alloys have better corrosion resistance compared to unalloyed cast irons and steels, as a dense and hard oxide film is formed on the aluminium surface protecting it from destruction. Such advantages allow us to forecast that centrifugally cast aluminium pipes in the near future will become widespread in many industries along with steel and cast iron pipes,'

Roman Andryushin, Deputy CEO of UC RUSAL for Sales in Russia, the CIS, and China

In the long run, it is possible to arrange the production of high-strength aluminium centrifugally cast pipes with a capacity of more than 10 thousand tonnes of casting per year at the production facilities of Lipetsk Pipe Company Svobodny Sokol.

Hindalco to invest \$3 billion in 5 years

Hindalco has earmarked \$2.5-3 billion of growth capex on a consolidated basis for the next five years, Kumar Mangalam Birla, chairman, Hindalco Industries Ltd, said at the company's 62nd annual general meeting on Monday.



For Novelis, the capex will primarily be invested for autofinishing line expansions in the US and China, and for expanding rolling and recycling capacity in Brazil. "In India, we are on-track to implement organic growth projects entailing a capital outlay of over \$1billion towards Utkal alumina expansion, various aluminium and copper downstream expansions, and specialty alumina projects.

The investments will advance our strategy of building a more predictable and resilient business model," added Birla.Hindalco has committed to achieving net carbon neutrality by 2050.

Hindalco continues to see strong demand across all business segments

Hindalco Industries Chairman Shri Kumar Mangalam Birla has said that the company has started FY'22 at a strong pace and continues to see a strong demand across business verticals despite the impact of the second wave of COVID-19. In his address to shareholders at the 62nd Annual General Meeting, Birla said that despite the pandemic-induced volatility in the business environment, Hindalco marked some significant milestones.

"We continue to see a strong demand across all our business segments, plants running at capacity, and improving margins, supported by better macros and operating efficiencies," he said.

In FY'21, the company delivered an outstanding financial and operational performance bolstered by operational efficiencies, a robust risk management framework and a sustainable business model.

"Your company continued to strengthen its balance sheet and brought down the consolidated net debt-to-EBITDA to 2.59 times at the end of the financial year from a peak of 3.83 times at the end of June 2020, after closing the acquisition of Aleris. The acquisition is a key step towards the diversification of your company's downstream portfolio into certain premium market segments, particularly aerospace," he said.

"Our India downstream strategy of reducing exposure to the global aluminium price fluctuations and increasing the share of value-added products (VAP) across businesses is also playing out well... more than 80 per cent of Hindalco's consolidated EBITDA was delinked from the volatility of the global metal prices taking together the Novelis, Copper and India Aluminium downstream Value-Added Products (VAP). The VAP sales are going up year after year in aluminium," he said.

Deburring and surface finishing ensure product quality

This year's Deburring EXPO will be held from October 12 to 14 as an attendance event at the Trade Fair Center Karlsruhe in Germany. Finally, users from various industries with a wide range of tasks in the production

steps of deburring and surface finishing will be able to exchange information with suppliers in face-to-face discussions again and find out about their new and further developed solutions in person. The integrated

expert forum with simultaneously translated presentations (German <> English) also enables the crucial transfer of knowledge on current developments and trends in these manufacturing sectors.

METALWORLD 18 Aug 2021

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GRO



News Update

Future of Furnaces forum announce that René Branders President of CECOF will be giving a presentation at the event



René Branders René Branders Presenting on: Europeun al international Tarrago Standards NEW SPEAKER NEW SPEAKER

René Branders has been announced as a speaker for the upcoming Future of Furnaces event taking place between the 14th -15th September 2021.

Graduating from the

University of Brussels with a chemical engineering degree in 1986, René Branders is involved in the wire industry since 1988.

Currently he is the CEO of FIB Belgium, a private family company designing heat treatment lines for the steel wire industry and that was awarded "Industry of the year" by Ernst & Young in 2008 for the south part of Belgium.

Since September 2012 he holds the Chair of the European Association (CECOF) - The European Committee of Industrial Furnace, Heating and Metallurgical Equipment Associations- where BIFCA represents the UK interests of the branch.

He is also the President of many other organizations such as AGORIA the Federation of the technology industry in Belgium, the Federation of the Belgian Chambers of Commerce and the Belgian collective research center SIRRIS focusing on the transposition of new technologies to industrial scale solutions.

René Branders has prepared a presentation on the European and International Furnace Standards, which will uncover the current status of the evolving EN746 series of European safety standards and the progression of some of them to international ISO versions.

Marubeni Commences Sales of Carbon Neutral Aluminium Ingot, "Neutr-Al"



Marubeni Corporation announces the commencement of sales of its carbon neutral aluminium ingot called, "Neutr-Al" in Japan.

In recent years, the reduction of

Green House Gas (GHG) emissions is an essential factor in doing business as the current economic demand has increase since the world climate status has become a more pressing issue.

The Japanese government has announced that Japan will reduce its GHG emissions to net zero by 2050 and as such, it is now increasingly necessary for businesses to reduce GHG emissions. As a result, people across all industries are seeking effective methods of doing so.

"Neutr-Al" is an aluminium ingot which neutralises its GHG emissions from bauxite mining, alumina production, aluminium smelting, and its transportation to Japan.

The ingot uses carbon by carbon credits, which are created by GHG reduction and/or absorption activities in Japan and abroad, to monitor the gg created in its production.

Utilising Marubeni's vast knowledge in aluminium and carbon credit, "Neutr-Al" will remove the barriers to GHG reduction by calculating GHG emissions, suggesting the most reasonable GHG reduction method, and retiring carbon credits all at once at Marubeni so as to contribute to the transition to carbon neutral society.

RUSAL assists in launching the production of aluminium cast pipes



RUSAL announces that it has been working with the Lipetsk Pipe Company Svobodny Sokol in the production of aluminium cast pipes which are comparable in quality to products made from conventional materials.

The casting technology makes it possible to

produce pipes with a diameter of up to 1 metre and a length of up to 6 metres for the needs of housing and utility services, oil and gas production, as well as fire extinguishing. In the near future, tests to evaluate the new high-strength alloy developed by RUSAL will be conducted, which will provide aluminium pipes with the same mechanical strength characteristics as steel and cast-iron pipes.

The price of aluminium pipes is comparable to that of high strength cast iron products. Notably, the weight of aluminium pipes is 3 times less than the weight of cast iron analogues. This ensures a reduction in the cost of transportation and installation of pipelines, which is especially important for difficult access area. Roman Andryushin, Deputy CEO of UC RUSAL for Sales in Russia, the CIS, and China, commented: 'Aluminium alloys have better corrosion resistance compared to unalloyed cast irons and steels, as a dense and hard oxide film is formed on the aluminium surface protecting it from destruction. Such advantages allow us to

METALWORLD 20 Aug 2021



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News Update

forecast that centrifugally cast aluminium pipes in the near future will become widespread in many industries along with steel and cast iron pipes,'

Roman Andryushin, Deputy CEO of UC RUSAL for Sales in Russia, the CIS, and China

In the long run, it is possible to arrange the production of high-strength aluminium centrifugally cast pipes with a capacity of more than 10 thousand tonnes of casting per year at the production facilities of Lipetsk Pipe C

Recyclers slam BIS move for imported aluminium scrap



The All India Non-Ferrous Metal Exim Association (ANMA) that includes around 500 aluminium scrap recyclers in Gujarat has asked the Union government to desist from implementing BIS

(Bureau of India Standards) quality standards on imported aluminium scrap.

"The import duty on aluminium scrap in our neighbouring countries is nil. Our government has imposed a 2.5 per cent import duty on the same. We fear that the government under the influence of larger players in the aluminium production, might raise this import duty. Why should there be a duty on scrap in the first place? Such a duty is understandable for finished goods," said Jayant Jain, honorary secretary of ANMA, which held its annual general meeting on Tuesday at Ahmedabad.

Amara Raja Batteries bags the prestigious

'Excellent Energy Efficient Unit' award at CII's 22nd National Awards for 'Excellence in Energy Management' Amara Raja Batteries Limited, India's leading Industrial and Automotive Battery manufacturer, won the Excellent Energy Efficient Unit Award at the prestigious 22nd National awards competition hosted by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). The unit located at Amara Raja Growth Corridor at Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh was amongst the top achievers of this highest recognition award under the Automotive and Engineering category. The 22nd edition of the annual national awards for Excellence in Energy Management was hosted virtually by the CII from 24th to 27th August 2021.

Amara Raja Batteries Limited also won the Innovative Project award at the event for its energy-saving project on Pneumatic Cylinder size optimisation, which was implemented in its Small Batteries Division Plant of ARBL. C Narashimulu Naidu, Chief Operations Officer, Amara Raja Batteries Limited said, "We are delighted to receive this esteemed award from the Confederation of Indian



Industry. Recognitions like these strengthen our resolve to stay committed to our goals of energy efficiency and environmental practices. I am proud of the entire ARBL team for their collaborative

efforts in this direction, and would like to congratulate them on this commendable achievement."

CII had received over 400 online applications in different categories from 9 sectors. The winners were chosen on strict parameters by a panel of 30 eminent judges.

Hindustan Copper to consider issuance of bonds worth Rs500cr and QIPs in upcoming AGM

Hindustan Copper has announced that in the 54th Annual General Meeting scheduled on 22 September 2021, the company will consider a host of measures for fundraising. As per the regulatory filing, the special resolutions that will be considered in the AGM are:

1. To authorize the Board to offer, issue and allot, in one or more trenches, equity shares through Qualified Institutional Placement method in terms of Chapter VIII of the SEBI (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2018 up to 9,69,76,680 equity shares of the Company (i.e. 10.48% of the existing paid-up capital of the Company).

2. To authorize the Board to offer, issue and allot, in one or more tranches, secured or unsecured non-convertible Debentures/ Bonds on a private placement basis for an amount not exceeding Rs.500 crore.

At around 3.25 pm, Hindustan Copper was trading at Rs115.45 per piece flat compared to the previous closing on Sensex.

The stock has touched an intraday high and low of Rs117.60 per piece and Rs115.05 per piece respectively.

UAE's Emirates Global Aluminium swings to profit in first half

Emirates Global Aluminium, one of the world's largest aluminium producers, returned to profit in the first half of 2021 on the back of higher prices for its metal, as global economies began to recover from the coronavirus crisis. The company, which is preparing for a potential initial public offering, reported a profit of 1.74 billion dirhams (\$473.75 million). EGA reported a loss of 208 million dirhams in the year earlier period.

Revenues for the six months ended June 30 stood at 10.8 billion dirhams, compared with 9 billion last year

METALWORLD 22 Aug 2021

Make your Steel Plant future-ready

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RIA Cast House solution for Furnace Skimming to enhance the operational efficiency

RIA Cast House Engineering GmbH, based in Leipzig Germany has supplied over 60 railmounted precision Furnace Charging and Skimming Machines worldwide, with numerous repeat references. The company was originally founded, in the 1990s.

RiA was founded by a former Technical Director of an Aluminium Plant in Rackwitz, Germany. Consequently, all RiA Machines have been Engineered with minimal and ease of Maintenance in mind. RiA equipment is recognized as Sturdy, Durable, and Reliable and today capable of Manual, Automatic and even fully Autonomous Modes of Operation.

It's first Skimming Machine, supplied in the late 1990s, is still in operation today. In 2018 the decision



Kiran Deshpande *Country Manager,* India, RIA Cast House Engineering GmbH

was taken to develop technology incorporating Machine Vision Smart Cameras, to make intelligent decisions, optimizing Performance and increasing Operator Safety.

Since that time, all RiA Charging Machines have had the optional capability of functioning without an Operator. The Machines can be supplied with on-board cameras and from a remote location the operator can

METALWORLD 24 Aug 2021



manually control all the movements of the Machine based on monitor images seen from a safe distance, in a Control Room, away from the Furnace.

The next logical step was to introduce intelligence with those cameras to identify dross and its location. During the commissioning phase, the shape and positions of the Furnace refractory are programmed into the onboard PLC.

This ensures that it is not possible to have erroneous contact between the Skim Blade and the Refractory. Now knowing where the Dross is on the Bath surface, the Skim Blade can be automatically driven to the exact location of the Dross and remove from the Furnace, without the need for Operator intervention and without any contact with the Furnace walls or floor.

This process is not only quicker than an operator but also repeatable, with consistent results. This fully Intelligent capability is already implemented in several Cast Houses Worldwide and significantly in the European and US markets. The Machine will not only Skim but also Stir and Mix the Bath contents as well, to ensure Homogeneity and can also clean the refractory between cycles or alloy changes.

In this final case, the Blade needs to contact the refractory, but because the locations have been programmed into the PLC, the approach speed and pressure of contact are reduced, minimizing refractory wear and damage. All RiA Machines incorporate accurate Laser position sensors and Laser safety scanners. As they are rail mounted, all Cast House personnel are aware of the possibilities and direction of movements. Even then if a person or an object is in the path of movement, the Machine will slow down and stop without contacting the

Feature



object in its path.

The benefits of implementation of such technology in your Cast House include: Significantly increased Productivity and reduced Energy Consumption due to shorter Skimming Cycles and less heat loss.

Reduced Refractory damage ensuring significantly longer Refractory life and more Furnace operational uptime. Reduced forklift movements in the Cast House leading to increased Operator Safety and reduced maintenance.

Removal of Operators from the skimming process, increasing Operator Safety. The vision of a Smart Cast House with Operator Safety a high priority is no longer just a vision for RiA, but already a reality.



METALWORLD 25 Aug 2021

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China's bleak demand push Industrial metals under pressure

Industrial metals prices have remained unsettled in the past couple of months as bleak demand from China coupled with widening impact of the delta variant of Covid19 virus outpaced the optimism over a promising outlook.

Industrial metal prices flourished in the early months of 2021 on bets of increasing global demand in the coming year following the adaption of green ecology and shift towards renewable energy. However, the recent

outbreaks of the Delta variant, severe flooding in China amid high raw material cost threatened to slow the recovery in the world's largest metal consuming economy which weighed on the industrial metal prices. That, coupled with falling loan growth in China continued to hamper market sentiments. In July'21, China's new bank loans fell more than expected while broad credit growth plunged to a 17-month low which raised expectation of some policy easing to support the

country's economic recovery. However, the expectations of policy easing by China failed to levy any major support as US Federal Reserve officials hinting towards tapering of the expansionary policy amid widening impact of the pandemic continued to pressure industrial metal prices.

Supply constrains for Aluminium

Aluminium prices rose about 1.4 percent on the LME and about 4 percent on the MCX in the said time frame. A series of events like a mounting supply

METALWORLD 27 Aug 2021

Feature

concerns and bets on increase in demand for industrial metals in the times ahead created a supportive environment for the entire base metal's spectrum. However, escalating global worries and US planning to withdraw the stimulus measures led to the recent fall in prices. Adding to the supply uncertainties were the recent floods in central China which took a severe hit on the production of industrial metals, primarily impacting Aluminium and Lead output. Production activities in China are expected to remain under pressure until the impacted industrial regions resume

Aluminum prices remained elevated following the mounting supply woes from major producer China. In July'21, China's Aluminium output was down for the third consecutive month asthe stern power consumption norms in key producing regions kept the smelter operating rate low. As per the National Bureau of Statistics, China produced 3.26 million tonnes of primary Aluminium in July'21, down about 0.9 percent from June's 3.29 million tonnes

operation. Low production from China amid growing demand for Aluminium and other industrial metals around the globe might continue to support prices. The continuous withdrawals of Aluminium inventories from the LME monitored warehouse further signaled towards a tighter supply of the light metal. LME Aluminium inventories are down over 30 percent since March'21.

Outlook

METALWORLD 28 Aug 2021

Despite of a promising outlook, a major setback for the industrial metals spectrum in the near term is the evident slowdown in China's industrial sector. High raw material prices have forced many producers limit operations which undermined the demand prospects for industrial metals.

> That, coupled with rising expectation of an early tapering by the US Central banks might continue to pressure the industrial metals in the coming weeks.

Moreover, China moving to curb the steel production in the coming months of 2021 might weigh down Zinc and Nickel prices, the primary components used in steel production. China Steel output in the first half of 2021 witnessed a rapid growth; however, high costs

and strict environmental norms is expected to limit the production activities in the rest of the year.

Fresh round of energy usage limitation imposed in China's Yunnan province (accounts for 10 percent of China's Aluminium output), Inner Mongolia, Guangxi, and Guizhou might keep the supply of Aluminium from China tight in the coming months. We expect Aluminium prices to test levels of Rs.217per kg in a months' time frame. (CMP : Rs.208)

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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Owing to the severe pandemic situation in Mumbai, the board has unanimously decided to change the dates and venue of 70th IFC & IFEX for your safety

New Dates & Venue

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• Hall plans and offer will be ready by 15th April 2021.

• Leela (300 room 5 Star Hotel close to the venue) will be inaugurated by Hon. Prime Minister on 15th April. Plenty of other hotels suiting all budgets are available nearby. You may avail of specially negotiated rates for our event.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 70th INDIAN FOUNDRY CONGRESS

(Jointly organized by Mumbai and Ahmedabad Chapters with support of WR.)

· CEO level techno-commercial presentations & panel discussions are aimed at giving real value for money & time spent

· Knowledge sessions are planned till Lunch; so delegates may visit IFC & IFEX both

• FOUNDRY TECHNICA: A valuable reference volume covering sections of Equipment maintenance, Costing Templates, Energy Saving, Export Markets, Expansion, New Projects & ROI, Global Universities with Foundry Technology and many more will be given free to delegates who register before cut off date. This will ensure long shelf life; thereby giving our advertisers great mileage.

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Statistics

SIAM Statistic Passenger vehicle sales rise to 2.64 lakh units in July

"Indian automobile industry continues to face heavy headwinds in the form of global semiconductor shortage and steep rise in commodity prices. On one hand, the industry is managing such supply chain challenges while ensuring safety of its people, and on the other hand industry is also keeping a close eye on the onset of a third wave in India and across the world." Rajesh Menon, Director, SIAM

As per the Society of Indian Auto Manufacturers (SIAM) latest press release data indicates that India's Passenger vehicle sales jumped to 2.64 lakh units in July compared to 1.82 lakh units in the same period last year.

SIAM stated that though there is recovery in the passenger vehicles segment sales, they are still less than the 2016-17 level. Twowheeler sales are lower than the 2010-11 level, whereas the three-wheeler segment has gone back by many years, the auto industry body noted in its official release.

Two-wheeler and threewheeler segments also saw

a rise in sales during this month. Two-wheeler sales fell to 12.53 lakh units in July this year vs 12.81 lakh units sold in the same period last year. Three-wheeler sales went up to 17,888 units in July this year compared to 12, 728 units last year. With this, sales across three segments went up to 15.36 lakh in July 2021 vs 14.76 lakh in July 2020.

Motorcycle sales were at 8,37,096 units last month as against 8,88,520 units in July 2020, down 6 per cent. Scooter sales increased 10 per cent to 3,66,292 units from 3,34,288 units. Similarly, three-wheeler sales surged 41 per cent to 17,888 units last month as against 12,728 units a year ago.

The total sales across

categories, excluding commercial vehicles, stood at 15,36,269 units compared to 14,76,861 units in July last year.

The auto industry body said the industry is trying to maximise production and sales in the midst of an uncertain and challenging business environment.

In the April-July period, domestic passenger vehicle sales stood at 9.10 lakh units. Three-wheeler sales numbered 42,264 units and two-wheeler sales stood at 36.57 lakh units which are still lower than the level of 2016-17; for Twowheeler segment, still lower than thelevel of 2010-11; and Three-wheeler segment has been pushed back by many years.

METALWORLD 30 Aug 2021

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Statistics

		SIAM				
Segment wise C	omparative Production, I	Domestic Sales &	Exports data for th	ne month of July 2	021	
					(Numb	er of Vehicles)
Category	Production		Domestic Sales		Exports	
Segment/Subsegment	July		July		July	
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021
Passenger Vehicles (PVs)*						
Passenger Cars	1,29,158	1,75,218	1,02,773	1,30,080	22,806	34,933
Utility Vehicles(UVs)	80,540	1,47,658	71,384	1,24,057	11,256	17,383
Vans	8,788	10,493	8,622	10,305	121	3
Total Passenger Vehicles (PVs)	2,18,486	3,33,369	1,82,779	2,64,442	34,183	52,319
Three Wheelers						
Passenger Carrier	26,450	55,870	6,733	11,181	19,585	44,660
Goods Carrier	7,017	7,294	5,995	6,707	310	337
Total Three Wheelers	33,467	63,164	12,728	17,888	19,895	44,997
Two Wheelers						
Scooter/ Scooterettee	3,23,750	4,24,328	3,34,288	3,66,292	8,971	33,678
Motorcycle/Step-Throughs	10,80,760	12,23,412	8,88,520	8,37,096	1,71,330	3,43,194
Mopeds	58,948	53,252	58,403	49,279	720	326
Electric Two Wheelers	103	1,108	143	1,270	-	-
Total Two Wheelers	14,63,561	17,02,100	12,81,354	12,53,937	1,81,021	3,77,198
Quadricycle	-	402	-	2	102	426
Grand Total of All Categories	17.15.514	20.99.035	14,76,861	15,36,269	2,35,201	4.74.940

		SIAM				
Summary Report: Cur	nulative Production, Do	mestic Sales & Ex	oports data for the	period of April-Ju	ly 2021	
						Report I
					(Numb	per of Vehicles)
Category	Production April-July		Domestic Sales April-July		Exports April-July	
Segment/Subsegment						
	2020-21	2021-22	2020-21	2021-22	2020-21	2021-22
Passenger Vehicles (PVs)*						
Passenger Cars	2,05,564	6,10,836	1,82,824	4,67,271	54,679	1,14,309
Utility Vehicles(UVs)	1,45,755	4,88,511	1,39,409	4,10,149	22,963	64,534
Vans	12,218	34,681	14,280	33,294	160	591
Total Passenger Vehicles (PVs)	3,63,537	11,34,028	3,36,513	9,10,714	77,802	1,79,434
Three Wheelers						
Passenger Carrier	82,587	2,05,486	13,652	26,950	70,012	1,79,052
Goods Carrier	13,212	19,661	11,836	15,314	514	3,527
Total Three Wheelers	95,799	2,25,147	25,488	42,264	70,526	1,82,579
Two Wheelers						
Scooter/ Scooterettee	4,81,981	11,17,588	6,73,296	9,58,737	23,667	1,23,823
Motorcycle/Step-Throughs	21,27,797	39,46,757	17,90,263	25,77,294	4,93,858	13,85,183
Mopeds	1,03,632	1,16,738	1,12,111	1,18,288	1,479	5,294
Electric Two Wheelers	183	3,311	193	3,209	-	-
Total Two Wheelers	27,13,593	51,84,394	25,75,863	36,57,528	5,19,004	15,14,300
Quadricycle	431	2,050	-27	2	499	2,051
Grand Total of All Categories	31,73,360	65,45,619	29,37,837	46,10,508	6,67,831	18,78,364
* DMM, Marandan, Value Auto data in not available and Tata	Metero dete in eveilable for An	ar lune only				

METALWORLD 32 Aug 2021

News Update

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari calls for transforming automotive sector with advance technologies at 61st Annual Convention organized by SIAM

New Delhi, 25th August, 2021: Putting spotlight on the need for rapid adoption of new-age technologies, Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), the apex automobile industry body, marked its 61st Annual Convention with a series of virtual plenary sessions deliberating upon the recover and future of the automotive industry.

The fourth plenary session, Technological Advancements in the World, was graced by Guest of Honour, Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari, Hon'ble Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways,

Government of India, who appreciated the progress done by the automobile industry by leapfrogging from BSIV to BSVI emission norms in a short time frame. He mentioned that with immense capabilities, including the availability of skilled manpower through various engineering colleges, India is well poised to look at futuristic technologies for the automobile industry. He specifically emphasized on the need for adopting ethanol in a big way in the country and was open to look at hydrogen-based mobility in the future. He was also of the view that the industry and all stakeholders should look at establishing scrappage facilities

across the country that would provide as a source of raw material for the industry itself.

In his opening remarks, Mr Vinod Aggarwal, Treasurer, SIAM & Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, VE Commercial Vehicles Ltd, said, "Vehicles today are increasingly becoming large smart devices with advanced technologies and better fuel efficiency, making mobility more safe, comfortable and efficient. The Indian auto industry has come a long way in the last 3 to 4 years wherein we have moved from BS 4 in 2017 and to BS 6 in 2020. During these years, we have also met new safety and fuel efficiency regulations. The industry has come forward and we are also committed to launch some flex fuel vehicles.

Use of higher blends of ethanol in vehicles will support the Government of India's ambition to minimize the dependence on crude imports. The Hon'ble Prime Minister has formally announced the launch of the national hydrogen mission to accelerate plans to generate carbon free fuel from renewables, for India to achieve self-reliance in energy. The industry will be committed to work on these new areas."

Sharing the component industry perspective, Mr Deepak Jain, President, ACMA and Chairman & Managing Director, Lumax Group, highlighted several factors that are creating truly a paradigm shift in the industry, which includes the adoption of alternative fuels such as ethanol and hydrogen; changes in drivetrain; more safety features in vehicles; usage of eco-friendly material in manufacturing and recycling; and the adoption of smart technology to boost manufacturing.

Dr Plinio Nastari, President, DATAGRO, Brazil, made a presentation on 'Ethanol viewed as Integrated and Modern Solution for Sustainable Mobility', where he mentioned that ethanol is an integrated and modern solution for sustainable mobility. Talking about India, he said that the country is one of the largest automotive markets in the world and like all other nations, there is a lot of emphasis on decarbonisation and sustainable mobility in India. He agrees that EVs surely can ensure energy efficiency and low carbon emissions, but there is a need to look for other technology pathways that are more environment friendly than battery powered electric vehicles that would help to reduce emissions efficiently and effectively.

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Motorisation that uses ethanol are more environmentally sustainable as they can reduce greenhouse gas emissions considerably. He went on to talk about how evolution of ethanol blend in Brazil happened, and how they could substitute gasoline. Flex engine technology is a sustainable solution as ethanol has various inherent advantages of ethanol, such as its scalability, replicability, proven environmental and health benefits, affordability, among others. He said that Ethanol should be seen as green hydrogen and we are approaching the "Age of Hydrogen".

While sharing his views on Hydrogen fuel, Dr Daryl Wilson, Executive Director, Hydrogen Council, Canada, in his presentation titled 'What in the world is happening with hydrogen' shared that hydrogen has become an important component in the mobility world with 500 billion worth of new projects announced in the last 24 months. He further focused on the 7 critical functions that hydrogen delivers for a new energy world such as enabling large scale and efficient use of renewable energy, distributing energy across sectors and regions, among other. With falling cost of hydrogen and various technologies, over 20 hydrogen applications are considered the most competitive low carbon solution by 2030. In his concluding remark, Mr Girish Wagh Chairman, SIAM Commercial Vehicle CEOs Council & Executive Director, Tata Motors Ltd thanked all the dignitaries present for their insightful discussions around

alternative fuel and the Government's push to circular economy. He also agreed that sustained supply of ethanol will make it a formidable alternative fuel, by converting it into hydrogen form. Ethanol would play a significant role in India as the country has a large farming community and a sustained supply will be able to supplement fossil fuel. The industry is committed to support the Government's vision to enhance utilization of ethanol. He also stated that India has already developed and demonstrated Hydrogen powered three-wheelers more than a decade ago.

"We now have fuel cell buses undergoing pilot trials. Presently, India is focused more on battery electric vehicle technology, however fuel cells are gaining momentum the world over and for a good reason. Hydrogen will play a vital role in future mobility." he added.

Rajesh Menon, Director General, SIAM

ASK Chemicals to acquire industrial resin business from SI Group

ASKCHEMICALS

ASK Chemicals, one of the world's leading suppliers of foundry chemicals, announces

that they have entered into a definitive agreement to purchase the industrial resin business from SI Group (New York, USA).

With this acquisition, ASK Chemicals is reinforcing its position in the foundry market and at the same time strengthening its non-foundry business.

ASK Chemicals and SI Group have agreed on the purchase of SI Group's industrial resin business and associated manufacturing sites in Rio Claro (Brazil), Ranjangaon (India), and Johannesburg (South Africa), as well as licensed technology and multiple tolling agreements globally. The transaction is expected to close later this year.

SI Group will carve out the rubber and adhesives business, oilfields and surfactants, as well as foundry products in Brazil, and will operate tolling agreements with ASK Chemicals. SI Group's industrial resin business serves a wide range of markets and applications such as foundry, friction, abrasives, refractory, paper impregnation, insulation and composites.

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