

News Release

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MAGNECO/METREL TO HELP BUILD WORLD'S LARGEST BLAST FURNACE

ADDISON, Illinois (February 23, 2007) -- Magneco/Metrel, Inc., announced today that it has signed a contract to supply its advanced colloidal silica (Sol-Gel) bonded, nanoparticulate refractories for the construction of the world's largest blast furnace, a 5,500-cubic-meter working volume furnace with a capacity of over 5 million tons per year in Caofeidan, Hebei Province, China, near the Bohai Bay seaport.

Under terms of the agreement with Shougang Jingtang United Iron and Steel ("Jing Tang," a joint venture of the Shougang Group and the Tang Shan Iron and Steel Group) and the China Shougang International Trade and Engineering Corporation, Magneco/Metrel will provide and install various grades of its patented Sol-Gel bonded monolithic refractories. The innovative technology will be applied to the insulating, cooling and leveling layers around the water pipes of the sub-hearth, the arrestor course in direct contact with the iron bath, and the artificial protective skull of the carbon hearth wall of the furnace.

"We are very honored to have been chosen to contribute our unique technology and expertise to this important and historic project," said Charles Connors, Sr., president of Magneco/Metrel.

(more)

MAGNECO/METREL

Magneco/Metrel's family of refractory products consists of pumpable and shotcrete formulations of colloidal silica, Sol-Gel bonded monolithic refractory materials developed to satisfy the demands of different regions of a furnace. Compared to low or ultra-low cement bonded castables, Magneco/Metrel's products exhibit superior hot strength, thermal shock and creep resistance properties, excellent erosion and abrasion resistance, high resistance to chemical attack and increased mechanical strength.

Magneco/Metrel's monolithic refractories can also reduce furnace construction costs and downtime for repairs, thanks to their pumpability and low water content, which allows the material to dry quickly.

For further information on the full line of Magneco/Metrel monolithic refractory products, call 630/543-6660 or visit www.magneco-metrel.com.

Magneco/Metrel Inc. is the world's leading developer and manufacturer of refractory technology, with headquarters in Addison, Illinois, and facilities in 17 countries worldwide.

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