

The Dawn of 2025, Part 14: Navigating the Currents

Updated on : Jan 24, 2025

Synopsis: Steel producers are facing a rapidly changing logistics landscape in 2024, driven by pandemics, geopolitical tensions, and evolving trade policies. As these factors continue to disrupt traditional supply chains, steelmakers must adjust their strategies to ensure timely, cost-effective deliveries of raw materials and finished products. This article delves into the logistics challenges affecting the steel industry, the adaptations steel producers are making, and the trends that will shape the future of steel logistics moving into 2025.

EUROFER Urges 50% Cut in EU Import Quotas for Flat Steel Products to Safeguard Industry

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Synopsis: EUROFER, the European Steel Association, has called for a 50% reduction in import quotas for flat steel products to ensure a more balanced steel market in the EU. The proposal aims to protect domestic steel production by reducing imports, particularly from China, and increasing anti-dumping duties.

Germany's Steel Industry Faces Challenges Despite Modest Production Gains in 2024

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Synopsis: Germany's steel industry, facing weak demand and rising imports, produced less than 40 million metric tons of crude steel in 2024 for the third consecutive year. The industry is under pressure from cheap foreign imports, high energy costs, and economic uncertainty, with experts calling for urgent action to boost investment and domestic production.

ArcelorMittal France Warns of Potential Mill Closures Without EU Protection

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Synopsis: Alain Le Grix de la Salle, CEO of ArcelorMittal France, has warned that one-third of the European steel industry could face closure unless the EU introduces stronger protections against unfair imports and high energy costs. ArcelorMittal is struggling with rising energy prices, steel demand declines, and non-EU imports, threatening the survival of European steel plants.

Aperam's Strategic Move: Universal Stainless Joins Forces with Global Steel Leader

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Synopsis: Aperam has successfully completed its acquisition of Universal Stainless & Alloy Products, marking a significant milestone in the steel industry. Universal's stockholders will receive \$45.00 per share in this all-cash transaction, which strengthens Aperam's position in the aerospace and industrial steel markets.

Hyosung Advanced Materials Seeks to Divest Tire Steel Cord Division for New Ventures

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Synopsis: HS Hyosung Advanced Materials is planning to sell its tire steel cord business for \$1 billion as part of a strategic move to fund future ventures, including electric vehicle materials, hydrogen technologies, and artificial intelligence. The sale aims to help the company focus on its emerging growth sectors.

ArcelorMittal Poland Enhances Environmental Sustainability with Upgraded Argon Station Dust Collection

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Synopsis: ArcelorMittal Poland is modernizing the dust collection system at its Dabrowa steel plant's argon station. The investment, worth over 30 million PLN, will reduce environmental impact, improve working conditions, and increase production efficiency. The project is part of the company's broader efforts to enhance sustainability in steel production.

BlueScope's \$1.15 Billion Gamble: Port Kembla's Blast Furnace Reline for a Sustainable Steel Future

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Synopsis: BlueScope Steel is investing \$1.15 billion in a massive three-year project to reline its number six blast furnace at Port Kembla, a key step to secure its steel production for the next 20 years. The project comes amid global pressure for greener steelmaking, but BlueScope views it as a bridge to low-emissions steel, ensuring continued output while exploring greener technologies.

SAIL-Rourkela Breaks Ground on Advanced Coke Oven Battery #7 for Expansion

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Synopsis: Rourkela Steel Plant has launched the Coke Oven Battery #7 project under its Modernization and Expansion initiative. The groundbreaking ceremony, attended by key officials, marks the beginning of a major upgrade aimed at enhancing production capacity with cutting-edge technology.

Konoike Transport Finalizes Indian Steel Slag Processor FSNL Acquisition: A Strategic Expansion

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Synopsis: Konoike Transport has completed its acquisition of FSNL, an Indian steel slag processing company, marking a strategic move to enhance its footprint in the growing steel industry sector. The deal opens new doors for processing steel slag, recycling, and sustainable solutions.

Elmarakby Steel Secures Quality Certification for Rebar Exports to Brazil

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Synopsis: Elmarakby Steel, one of Egypt's largest steel producers, has received quality certification from Falcao Bauer Quality Institute, enabling the company to export rebar to

Brazil. This certification confirms that Elmarakby can produce high-quality rebar meeting international standards, while also highlighting its commitment to reducing carbon emissions.

MMK's 2024 Production Decline: Steel, Pig Iron, & Coal Concentrate Volumes Dip

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Synopsis: MMK, one of Russia's largest steel manufacturers, reported a decrease in steel production by 13.8% in 2024, totaling 11.19 million metric tons. Internal factors like rolling mill repairs, blast furnace maintenance, and a slowdown in business activity contributed to this decline.

APL Apollo Tubes Reports 30.7% Profit Surge in Q3, Riding High on Strong Steel Sales

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Synopsis: APL Apollo Tubes Limited posted a 30.7% increase in net profit for Q3 of FY 2024-25, reaching INR 2.17 billion (\$25 million). The company saw a significant 37% rise in steel tube sales, driven by robust demand, and reported strong operational revenues of INR 54.32 billion (\$627.25 million) for the quarter.

HBIS Group Launches 3D-Printed Breathable Steel, Revolutionizing Manufacturing Processes

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Synopsis: HBIS Group has introduced a groundbreaking 3D-printed breathable steel, which has already reached leading domestic performance levels. This innovative material, produced using fine stainless steel powder particles, is transforming industries like automotive, aerospace, and electronics by improving mold efficiency, reducing weight, and enhancing air permeability.

Revolutionizing Structural Safety: AI Predicts Strength of CFRP-Enhanced Steel Columns

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Synopsis: Researchers at Seoul National University of Science and Technology have developed an innovative hybrid machine learning model that can accurately predict the ultimate axial strength of carbon fiber-reinforced polymer strengthened concrete-filled steel tube columns. This breakthrough promises safer, more resilient buildings and infrastructure.