



ArcelorMittal

# news release

## ***Commissioning of blast furnace in Krakow Unit of ArcelorMittal Poland nearing completion***

***Kraków, August 11, 2016***

**The only blast furnace in ArcelorMittal Poland's Krakow Unit has recently undergone a major overhaul. After a three-month standstill the furnace was "blown in", i.e. lighted in the late hours of July 31. Currently the commissioning phase is nearing completion, which means that the furnace is reaching its normal operating parameters.**

The blast furnace in the Krakow Unit of ArcelorMittal Poland was stopped for repair at the end of April. It was restarted on July 31 and the first tapping took place on August 2. On the following morning the first slab (semi-product) was cast, which was sent for further processing to the hot rolling mill. So the primary part of the steel plant has been operating since August 3. The commissioning of the blast furnace is nearing completion, which means that the unit is reaching its normal operating parameters.

A blast furnace is an installation which works in a continuous mode, 24/7. After it is lighted, it cannot be stopped. - *The average life span of blast furnaces is ca. 20 years. Then the carbon lining of the hearth (the interior of the furnace) has to be replaced as it gradually wears out. In order to do this, smelters have to extinguish the furnace and then remove the remnants of both liquid and solid hot metal. The latter procedure is called "salamander blasting" in the steelmaking jargon* – comments Gabriel Gilis, manager of blast furnace overhaul project.

In Krakow's furnace carbon blocks have been replaced, as well as cooling staves and tuyeres, via which so-called hot blast is fed, i.e. air at over 1,100 degrees Celsius.

The new lining is not the only aspect of the modernization. The overhaul has significantly reduced the unit's environmental footprint. Thanks to the modernization of the electrostatic precipitators the furnace already complies with norms of emissions into the air coming into force in autumn 2018. Thanks to the new closed circuit cooling system the steel plant will no longer take in water from the Vistula river for the

cooling of the installation whilst the modernization and replacement of hot stoves will allow it to increase the temperature of the hot blast, which in turn will translate onto lower coke consumption.

*- Thanks to this modernization, whose cost exceeds PLN 175 m, the furnace will be able to operate for the next 20 years. This is good news not only for the steelmakers in our Unit, but also for companies with which we cooperate. According to Eurofer, 1 workplace in steelmaking generates 4 workplaces in related branches of industry – comments Grzegorz Maracha, Krakow Unit director. – And the ecological aspects of the investment are evidence for the fact that ArcelorMittal Poland puts significant emphasis on improving its environmental footprint – he adds.*

The three-month long standstill of the entire primary part of the Krakow Unit (following the stoppage of the blast furnace at the end of April both the steel shop and continuous casting were idled) has not been reflected in the measurements of PM10 dust on the monitoring stations of the Provincial Inspectorate for Environmental Protection.

*– Despite the fact that over those three months no dust emissions occurred either from the blast furnace or the steel shop, the values recorded at those stations are comparable with respective periods in 2015 and 2014, when Krakow's steel plant operated in full production cycle – explains Jolanta Zawitkowska, environmental protection specialist and Green Officer at ArcelorMittal Poland.*

Project was subsidized by NFOŚiGW. ArcelorMittal Poland received a loan for modernization of dedusting system of teeming bay up to 5.250000 PLN and for ecoinnovative cooling system of BF up to 30.372375 PLN.

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#### **About ArcelorMittal Poland**

*ArcelorMittal Poland is the biggest steel producer on the Polish market with about 70% of production capacity of the Polish steel industry. The company consists of five steel plants located in Krakow, Dabrowa Gornicza, Sosnowiec, Swietochlowice and Chorzow. It also owns the largest coke plant in Europe – ZK Zdzeszowice. ArcelorMittal Poland employs over 11,000 people and over 14,000 if subsidiaries are taken into account. The company produces a wide range of long, flat, special and semi products for construction, transport and white goods industries.*

*During the 11 years of presence in Poland, the company has transformed Polish steelmaking. It has invested over PLN 5,5 bn in modernizing every stage of the production process. Thanks to increasing H&S standards, the company has reduced its accident frequency rate by more than 90 percent. It has decreased the CO2 emissions by 25 percent, thanks to which it has become more environmentally friendly. The company is 1 of 3 companies worldwide able to produce 120 meter rails.*

*ArcelorMittal Poland is consistently engaged in supporting local communities by carrying out educational, health and safety programmes. In the last 11 years the company has invested over PLN 15,5 m in these projects.*

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#### **About ArcelorMittal**

*ArcelorMittal is the world's leading steel and mining company, with a presence in 60 countries and an industrial footprint in 19 countries. Guided by a philosophy to produce safe, sustainable steel, we are the leading supplier of quality steel in the*

*major global steel markets including automotive, construction, household appliances and packaging, with world-class research and development and outstanding distribution networks.*

*Through our core values of sustainability, quality and leadership, we operate responsibly with respect to the health, safety and wellbeing of our employees, contractors and the communities in which we operate.*

*For us, steel is the fabric of life, as it is at the heart of the modern world from railways to cars and washing machines. We are actively researching and producing steel-based technologies and solutions that make many of the products and components people use in their everyday lives more energy efficient.*

*We are one of the world's five largest producers of iron ore and metallurgical coal and our mining business is an essential part of our growth strategy. With a geographically diversified portfolio of iron ore and coal assets, we are strategically positioned to serve our network of steel plants and the external global market. While our steel operations are important customers, our supply to the external market is increasing as we grow.*

*In 2015, ArcelorMittal had revenues of US\$63.6 billion and crude steel production of 92.5 million tonnes, while own iron ore production reached 62.8 million tonnes.*

*ArcelorMittal is listed on the stock exchanges of New York (MT), Amsterdam (MT), Paris (MT), Luxembourg (MT) and on the Spanish stock exchanges of Barcelona, Bilbao, Madrid and Valencia (MTS).*

*For more information about ArcelorMittal please visit: <http://corporate.arcelormittal.com/>*