



ISSUE NO. 76 • 2005

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE OF QATAR STEEL COMPANY (Q.S.C.) - (QASCO) - A SUBSIDIARY OF INDUSTRIES QATAR (IQ)



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Editor's Message

Dear Alsolb Reader,

This is the 76th issue of Alsolb Magazine. It coincides with QASCO's ceremonies in honour of the employees who have completed 10, 15, 20 and 25 years of service in QASCO and with the Quality Circle Conference. On this occasion, H.E. Sheikh Nasser Bin Hamad Al Thani, Member of the Board of Directors and General Manager, delivered a speech praising the efforts of QASCO staff and wishing the continuity of these efforts in order to realise further achievements, maintain QASCO's competitiveness and promote the name of QASCO both nationally and internationally.





PUBLISHED BY Public Relations Office Qatar Steel Company (QASCO) HEAD OFFICE P.O. Box 50090 Mesaieed, State of Qatar Tel. +974 4778778 Fax +974 4771424 COMMERCIAL DIVISION P.O. Box 689 Doha, State of Qatar

Tel. +974 4778778 Fax +974 4771888

PRODUCTION PERFORMANCE



PRODUCTION UNITS IN THE MANUFACTURING DEPARTMENT

All the production units (EF/CC/RM) in the Manufacturing Department exceeded their previous year's figures and posted new records. The results achieved against the budget in each shop are illustrated below:





EF PLANT

- Gunning Robot for EF3 has been put into operation due to which the wall refractory life has increased from 300 to 600 heats per campaign, resulting in the increase of furnace availability.
- Tire shredding machine has been installed and shredded tires are being charged in the furnace regularly. This has positively contributed to the environmental issue of disposing used tires in Qatar.
- Pelletizing equipment to recycle EF dust and DR product dust has arrived and is under instalation.

CC PLANT

- Online Tundish Nozzle Changing System has been implemented in all the three Continuous Casting Machines, and is running successfully.
- Implementation of Mould Level Controller in No.1 CC machine is currently under progress.

RM SECTION

• Straightening machine with sizes D8, D10 & D12 was successfully commissioned and is presently in operation.

30TH QUALITY CIRCLE CONFERENCE

on 1st December, 2005 H.E. Sheikh Nasser Bin Hamad Al Thani, Member of the Board of Directors and General Manager of QASCO inaugurated the 30th Quality Circle Conference held in Al Wosail Room of The Ritz-Carlton, Doha.

Eight proposals were discussed during the Conference. At the end of the Conference, Mr. Yousef Qassim Al Emadi, Manager of the Production Dept., awarded prizes to the following winning departments:





SI. No.	Dept./Sec.	Theme	Prize
1	DR	Elimination of unsafe conditions in different areas in DR	General Manager
2	MFG-RM	CC shear diverter modification	General Manager
3	MFG-CC	Safety precautions against molten steel hazards in CC	General Manager
4	MAINT-FINISHING	Safe and improved method of dismantling & assembling crane wheels	PM - Gold
5	Maint-RM Elect.	Ensure maximum availability of carbide ring notching machine	PM - Gold
6	MAINT-SUB-STN.	Uninterrupted cooling water supply for CC3 W/T mould and spray system	PM - Gold
7	MAINT-MH/DR	Enhance working safety in DR furnace zone	PM - Silver
8	MC	Improvement of scrap discharging system by Liebherr crane	PM - Silver

QASCO DUBAI SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH ARAB BANK PLC AND ITALIAN VAI POMINI FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 300,000 TPY BAR MILL PROJECT



On Monday, 21 November 2005, QASCO Dubai, an affiliated company of Qatar Steel Company, signed a contract with the Italian Company VAI POMINI, for the construction of a 'bar mill project' with an annual production capacity of 300,000 tons.

The agreement was signed by H.E. Sheikh Nasser Bin Hamad Al Thani, Chairman of Board of Directors of QASCO Dubai and Member of the Board of Directors and General Manager of QASCO and Mr. Carmine Costaro, Area Sales Manager of VAI POMINI. The contract signing ceremony was attended by Mr. Mahesh Pancholia, Director and General Manager of QASCO Dubai and top officials of the two companies as well as press representatives.

The new plant has been designed to produce 300,000 tons per year of steel bars and is expected to commence production in the first half of 2007.

On Monday, 21 November 2005 QASCO Dubai also signed a US\$ 52,000,000 finance agreement with Arab Bank plc, for funding QASCO Dubai's new bar mill project as well as the raw material purchases. The agreement was signed by H.E. Sheikh Nasser Bin Hamad Al Thani, Chairman of the Board of Directors of QASCO Dubai and Member of the Board of Directors and General Manager of QASCO and Mr. Mohamed Azab, Vice President and Area Manager of Arab Bank in the UAE.

H.E. Sheikh Nasser Bin Hamad Al Thani, Chairman of Board of Directors of QASCO Dubai, pointed out, "QASCO Dubai enjoys an excellent reputation as a producer of high-quality steel. Our decision to expand our steel production facilities was in response to the ever-increasing demand for our products in various markets. The new plant, which will be able to meet the anticipated demand for our products, will be fully automatic and will be equipped with all the necessary facilities and services".

"We are proud to be associated with the economic development of UAE and Qatar and with the expansion projects of QASCO Dubai. Integration of the infrastructure of Qatar Steel Company (QASCO) and QASCO Dubai will prove our international worth and will guarantee our success in the coming years", H.E. Sheikh Nasser Bin Hamad Al Thani added.





QATAR PETROLEUM - 5TH SUPPLIER'S FORUM

On 27th September 2005 Qatar Petroleum hosted the 5th Supplier's Forum at Sheraton Doha Hotel & Resort. The main objective of the forum was to strengthen the business relationships of QP and its associated companies. The forum, which was chaired by Mr. Abdulaziz Zeid Al-Taleb, Materials Manager of QP and Chairman of the Co-ordination Committee, provided local companies with an opportunity to discuss the important issues and challenges faced by both clients and suppliers, with the representatives of the materials management of QP group.

QASCO was represented at the forum by Mr. Ahmed Al Muftah, Head of Equipment & Service Contracts and Mr. Maged Mahmoud El-Banna, Head of Warehousing Operations. Delegates from QP, QAPCO, Qatargas, QAFAC, RasGas, QAFCO,Q-CHEM, ORYX and KAHRAAMA as well as around 150 local suppliers attended the forum.

The following views were expressed by the delegates:

- 1. Sharing of information regarding the tendering process & procedures.
- 2. Delay in payments & follow-up procedures.
- 3. Suggestion to form a technical team related to technical & commercial matters within the Procurement/Materials Department to speed-up the evaluation process.
- 4. Standardisation of terms and conditions among Qatar Petroleum and its associated companies.
- 5. Evaluation period is too long and partial orders are not economical.
- 6. Supplier's registration process is not standardized/formalized.

QASCO's Procurement Division will be working on enhancing its processes in order to satisfy its local suppliers' requests & comments.

