

In brief . . .

RHI Group revenues reached a new record level of EUR 1,835.7 million in 2012 (2011: EUR 1,758.6 million). The 4.4 per cent increase is primarily attributable to shifts in product mix, the positive effects of a weaker euro-dollar exchange rate as well as pricing effects. RHI will invest EUR 75 million in 2013, of which 25 per cent is for environmental investments

Reader Reply No.21

The UC RUSAL Board of Directors has approved the decision to reduce the primary aluminium production at the company's less efficient aluminium smelters by 300,000 tonnes by the end of 2013. The decision has been undertaken to maintain the competitive position given the current overcapacity, high power tariffs and metal prices downturn.

Reader Reply No.22

Reliance Steel & Aluminum, parent company of Birmingham, UK headquartered metals stockist metalweb since 2007, has seen its year-on-year sales increase to US\$ 8.44 billion, according to its end of year (31 December 2012) financial results statement. Net income was US\$ 403.5 million, an increase of 17.4 per cent on the previous year.

Reader Reply No.23

Rio Tinto has published its latest voluntary Taxes Paid report, which details the US\$ 11.6 billion of taxes the company paid globally in 2012. More than US\$ 8.9 billion in taxes were paid in Australia, followed by Canada (US\$ 1 billion), United States (US\$ 376 million), Chile (US\$ 331 million) and Mongolia (US\$ 280 million).

Reader Reply No.24

The Board of Directors of ALSCON smelter, 85 per cent of which is owned by UC RUSAL, is to temporarily suspend smelting operations at the plant. Before the decision was taken, RUSAL had been covering the plant's losses in expectation that a sustainable gas supply would be made available enabling ALSCON to operate at its full capacity.

Reader Reply No.25

Visoka has increased production of high efficiency mono and bi-metallic high finned heat exchanger tubes by commissioning a new CNC rolling plant. Fin diameters from 38 to 83 mm with 6 to 12 fins per inch can be produced in lengths up to 18 metres with the new extrusion equipment developed within Visoka's own engineering division.

Reader Reply No.26

New appointments to aid EAA mission

Effective as of 1st January 2013, Roeland Baan, Executive Vice President (EVP) & Chief Executive Officer, Global Rolled & Extruded Products at Aleris, has been appointed as the new Chairman of the European Aluminium Association (EAA) for the period 2013 to 2015. Mr Baan has been Executive Vice President of Aleris International since April 2008 and from 2008 to 2011 served as Executive Vice President and CEO Europe and Asia, during which time he was responsible for all business and operational activities for Aleris European region. Prior to joining Aleris, Mr Baan served as Executive Vice President and CEO of Mittal Steel Europe and served on Arcelor Mittal's Management Committee. Mr Baan succeeds Tadeu Nardocci of Novelis.

Following its change of Chairman, the EAA has appointed Gerd Götz as its new Director General. Dr Götz is a former Head of Global Public Affairs at Philips and is an associate of the European Round Table of Industrialists. Former Secretary General Patrick



Gerd Götz, Director General, European Aluminium Association (EAA).

de Schrynmakers, who is leaving the EAA after 12 years of commitment, enabled the EAA to successfully achieve its mission in representing its members and become a key stakeholder of the EU institutions. It now looks to strengthen its presence and visibility in Brussels and successfully promote the role of aluminium products and producers in Europe.

Reader Reply No.27

Norsk Hydro improves in fourth quarter

Hydro's underlying earnings before financial items and tax improved to US\$ 24.4 million (NOK 138 million) in the fourth quarter of 2012 from an underlying loss of NOK 19 million in the previous quarter. Lower energy costs for Alunorte in Bauxite & Alumina, lower variable costs in Primary Metal and improved results for the Qatalum aluminium plant contributed to underlying results. Underlying EBIT for Rolled Products declined compared with the third quarter, impacted by lower margins and seasonally higher maintenance.

In October Hydro announced an agreement with Orkla ASA to combine their respective extrusion profile, building systems and tubing

businesses in a new joint venture company to be named Sapa. Completion of the transaction is expected to take place in the first half of 2013, following approval by the relevant competition authorities.

Hydro's President and CEO Svein Richard Brandtzæg commented that the focus remains on improving performance across the value chain. The ambitious USD 300 programme is expected to be completed at the end of 2013, strengthening Hydro's industry position. Improvement efforts will continue, including plans to optimise production and performance in bauxite and alumina operations in Brazil.

Reader Reply No.28

Albanese and Ritchie step down

Tom Albanese has stepped down as Chief Executive with the Rio Tinto Board, and Iron Ore Chief Executive Sam Walsh has been appointed as his successor with effect from 17 January 2013. Doug Ritchie, who led the acquisition and integration of the Mozambique coal assets in his previous role as Energy Chief Executive, has also stepped down by mutual

agreement. Tom has contributed over 30 years of service to Rio Tinto and Doug 27 years. Rio Tinto's underlying business and balance sheet remain in good health, and the company is taking decisive action to improve its competitive position further with an aggressive cost reduction plan.

Reader Reply No.29

Aluminium is the game changer in Montreal

The Aluminium Association of Canada (AAC) and its members, Alcoa, Aluminerie Alouette and Rio Tinto Alcan, will host the first Canadian International Aluminium Conference (CIAC) from 21 - 25 October 2013 in Montreal, Canada. The CIAC will be the flagship of a week-long series of conferences and major events all related to aluminium. The CIAC will also be the host of a world-class exhibition that will bring together, under one roof, local, national and international exhibitors. The exhibition will create a platform to discuss and explore the latest developments and forward looking applications.



Chris Bayliss, Deputy Secretary General at the IAI, is to present at CIAC in October.

The programme, under the theme "Aluminium: the game changer", will focus on aluminium's innovative applications and emphasise the global importance of the aluminium industry around the world. With an expected 1,000 participants, the CIAC is a high-profile international not-to-be-missed event!

Renowned keynote speakers from around the world have already confirmed their presence at the CIAC in Montreal, one of them being Chris Bayliss, Deputy Secretary General at the International Aluminium Institute (IAI). The CIAC, a biennial conference, will provide excellent networking opportunities and attract key industry players. The CIAC will be a unique, prestigious event dedicated to the entire value chain of the aluminium industry. It will also be a special opportunity for key players to discuss the industry's issues and impact and it will give all a chance to discover the latest product innovations and leading edge technology. The CIAC will demonstrate aluminium's rightful place as a game changer in tomorrow's competitive market.

Reader Reply No.30