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Thursday
2 August 2007

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Smorgon inks supply deal with Intec

Tuesday, 31 July 2007
Angela Kean

SMORGON Steel has entered into a three-year agreement with metal producer Intec to supply arc furnace dust as feedstock to the Hellyer Residues Project in northwestern Tasmania.

Smorgon has been working with Intec since early 2006 when it signed a Stage 1 EAF dust stockpile transfer and treatment agreement for 20,500 tonnes of EAF dust in West Footscray, Melbourne.

Under this new agreement, Smorgon will supply Intec with about 15,000t of EAF dust production per annum, with zinc grades expected to exceed 30% from the outset.



Intec's Hellyer mill in Tasmania

Current efforts at Smorgon's mills in Laverton, Victoria and Waratah, New South Wales are expected to continue gradually to increase the zinc grade contained in the EAF dust product over time.

Smorgon will begin delivering EAF dust from its Waratah and Laverton mills to Intec today and tomorrow.

Intec managing director Philip Wood said the ongoing supply of EAF dust by Smorgon Steel contained about \$A20 million per annum worth of recoverable zinc, lead and silver at today's prices.

"Securing this ongoing feedstock from Smorgon – with others to follow – on mutually favourable economic terms for our Hellyer Residues Project represents a significant milestone in the commercial-scale application of the Intec Process," he said.

The Intec Process is a technology used to produce high purity base and precious metals from concentrates of sulfide ores.

The Hellyer Residues Project is expected to begin commercial production in early 2009.

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