

Usiminas inaugurates a new production line and doubles the offer of Hot-Dip Galvanized Steels

USINAS SIDERÚRGICAS DE MINAS GERAIS S.A. - USIMINAS

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NOTICE TO THE MARKET

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With an investment of 914 million, the annual production capacity will hit over 1 million tons. The Company focus on the rising demand of automotive, home appliance, civil construction and distribution sectors.

USIMINAS inaugurated on May 18th, the second hot dip galvanizing line of Unigal Usiminas – a joint venture between Usiminas and Nippon Steel, through investments of R\$914 million. Located in Ipatinga’s mill (MG), the new line will increase the annual production capacity of hot-dip galvanized steels in 550 thousand tons, without increasing the crude steel capacity.

With this capacity, Usiminas consolidates its competitive advantage to supply the growing demand of the automotive and home appliance industries, and the civil construction and distribution segments. This represents, therefore, a milestone in the steel sector and seals the commitment of the company with the consolidation of the Brazilian Industry in the global scenario.

This new line brings technological innovations that allows Usiminas to amplify its value added product mix to supply the domestic and external markets. Besides the increase in the capacity, this investment provides Usiminas major expertise in the production process of ultra high strength sheets and coils.

This specification meets the rising demand of the automotive sector, which seeks to find solutions in lighter galvanized steels through thickness reduction and higher resistance that may allow the development of lighter vehicles, and, consequently, with lower fuel consumption. Unigal’s new line will produce steels up to three millimeters thickness.

Other feature of the new line is the technology “L Treatment” developed by Nippon Steel. It is the application of an inorganic film of very small thickness (nanotechnology) that will cover the surface of the galvanized steel and will allow it to have better performance in the stamping processes. This will help clients to eliminate critical situations that result in big losses in the stamping process.

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