

## Materials



With a wealth of first-hand experience under his belt, the author indicates why an expensive material such as titanium can nevertheless be a popular choice for valves used in certain offshore areas. Titanium butterfly valves are for example the most common type of valve used in seawater service in the Norwegian offshore industry for both on/off and flow regulation applications.

Read more on page 9

## Fabrication



Governments, organisations and corporations are seeking ways to reduce carbon emissions, step away from their dependence on fossil fuels and at the same time ensure a reliable, sustainable energy mix. There surely has never been a better time to embrace biomethane plants – the very epitome of a sustainable, circular economy, says Wolfgang Bokern, Head of Plant Construction at WELTEC BIOPOWER.

Read more on page 11



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# Stainless Steel World News

The global newspaper with market, financial and trading news for the stainless steel and special metals community

## In the Spotlight:

From its purpose-built office and warehouse in the UK, Millstock Stainless supplies stainless steel materials to clients around the world. Whilst profiles are a definite speciality and find widespread use in industries too numerous to count, the company's precision-ground round bars are also in demand for niche applications, including use as marine propeller shafting on super yachts, explains Millstock Director Graham Lloyd.

Read more on pages 2-3

## Stainless cleaning line

SALICO has successfully finished the commissioning of a complete new Degreasing and Cleaning Line in OTELINOX S.A. stainless steel plant in Targoviste, Romania. The line includes a very special alkaline cleaning system combined with double brushing stations and high pressure systems.

The line also includes welding machine, fast removal of the squeegee rolls and brushes, automatic surface inspection systems, oil separators, a very complete triple



stations recirculation and filtration system, DM water plant and fumes scrubber. Cleaning performance has

proved to be in line with the customer high expectations for their very delicate and sensitive products.

## UPM achieves ISO 13485

United Performance Metals (UPM) has successfully achieved ISO 13485:2016 certification from NSF-ISR. This approval will allow the company's South Windsor, Connecticut branch to provide both materials and processing services for the medical industry.

"Achieving this certification demonstrates our commitment to quality

and service for medical OEM and machine shop sub-contractors in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, and other regions throughout the country," remarked Dennis Rahill, Business Development Manager.

Mark Ruel, UPM Quality Lead in Connecticut added "Obtaining ISO 13485:2016 certification validates United Perfor-

mance Metals' commitment within the markets we serve by delivering the highest level of quality and consistency to our customers."

United Performance Metals South Windsor, CT branch now holds three separate Quality Management Registration Systems; ISO 9001:2015, AS9100D and ISO 13485:2016.

## Nickel Institute updates archive of technical guides

Thirty significant technical publications originally produced by INCO and American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) have been refreshed and republished by the Nickel Institute. Popular titles, such as AISI's Design Guidelines for the Selection and Use of Stainless Steels and INCO's The Corrosion Resistance of Nickel-Containing Alloys in Sulphuric Acid and Related Compounds provide relevant technical information for engineers and end-users. The digital quality of the guides has been enhanced and all publications are searchable.

"The original publications were written by experts in their field and the information they provide is very relevant

today," said Richard Matheson, the Nickel Institute's Director, Market Development. "We are pleased to make this knowledge accessible to the next generation of designers, materials specifiers, architects and engineers. The high quality technical information is freely available to give practitioners confidence in working with nickel-containing materials and to harness their benefits in a wide range of applications."

In addition to providing an extensive library of practical technical guides, the Nickel Institute's team of highly experienced experts offers a free technical help service to answer technical questions from existing and



potential users of nickel-containing materials for architecture, building & construction, welding, process engineering, structural engineering, and other related topics.

The guides are useful additions to the bookshelves of materials engineers, architects, and structural engineers. They cover the use of nickel and nickel-containing alloys in a wide range of applications and are available for free download from the Nickel Institute's website.

## Nippon Steel receives "Equipment Supplier Award"

Nippon Steel Corporation and Sumitomo Corporation jointly received the Equipment Supplier of the Year Award from Shell's wells business (Shell).

The Award recognized the continued superior performance by Nippon Steel and Sumitomo Corporation in each of the evaluation items, including Nippon Steel's development capabilities of high-quality products, over 90% achievement in on-time delivery, cost reduction

in the entire supply chain, and accomplishment of more than 20 joint-research projects.

Nippon Steel and Sumitomo Corporation have maintained relationships regarding oil country tubular goods (OCTG) for more than 40 years with Shell and are currently under a 10-year contract period up to 2025. Both Nippon Steel and Sumitomo Corporation have contributed to Shell by proposing total solutions which include a

stable supply of high-end OCTGs, development of new products which match specific needs of Shell, and solid delivery service by use of Supply Chain Management (SCM). By making the best use of proprietary technology and services, Nippon Steel and Sumitomo Corporation will be further committed to contribute to oil and gas development efforts, which are becoming increasingly difficult and advanced.

## Success story in Inconel 825

A recent case history from valve manufacturer ValvTechnologies discusses a molecular sieve dehydration unit for use in the upstream oil & gas industry in Kazakhstan. Their customer uses molecular sieve dehydration units in the field to remove H<sub>2</sub>O from the produced gas. The field has very high concentrations of wet H<sub>2</sub>S - 17-20% - which is considered acid gas as it is very corrosive (sulfuric acid) as well as

lethal in concentrations as low as 500ppm. The H<sub>2</sub>O must be removed from the gas before further processing can continue such as removal of the sulfur, CO<sub>2</sub> and mercury. Valves leading into and out of molecular sieve drums cycle frequently and experience extremely high thermal cycling over a very short period.

This customer's molecular sieve valves were lasting between one to 90 days service before they would

leak to atmosphere (H<sub>2</sub>S) and shut down the mole sieve production unit. The customer's lost production was estimated to cost them USD 15-25MM per day.

Looking for a solution, the customer switched to ValvTechnologies' V1-4, solid Inconel 825 and the valves lasted for two years, saving them millions of dollars of lost production. A second order was subsequently placed for 74 V Series valves, sizes 12" and 16" in solid Inconel.

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