



Remarks on Special Issue on Bar & Wire Rods

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The manufacturing technology of steel bars and wire rods has been developed mainly for use in the automobile industry where the strength and toughness of steel are of advantage. Bars and wire rods are made into various types of finished products, including crankshafts, transmission gears, valve springs, suspension springs, bearings, bolts, tire cords, etc. As they have a direct effect on the safety of a vehicle, these automobile parts are important, responsible for protecting people's lives. The recent needs for the improvement of fuel consumption require an extremely high level of strength enhancement and weight reduction. To meet such requirements, particularly using heat treatment technology and processing technology in combination, the material properties have been significantly improved. Some products have strength that exceeds 4000 MPa. We are proud to have assisted Japanese companies including automobile manufacturers in their globalization processes, through the provision of high quality and highly functional special steel bars and wire rods backed by the strong partnerships with customers to whom we have proposed various products of high strength steel, steel that allows for process omission, environment-friendly steel, etc.

After the launch of Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corporation in October 2012, the product lines and developed technologies were greatly expanded, enabling production using multiple steelworks. This has allowed us to timely respond to the demands for bars and wire rods from markets both in Japan and overseas, and to respond to those for even more sophisticated products as well.

This issue of Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Technical Report not only introduces the latest bar and wire rod products, but also the peripheral technology and production technology. Three years ago, the Bar & Wire Rod Unit launched the SteelLinC™ brand. The basic premise of the brand is to add new value to the product finished by a customer using the synergetic effect between Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal's material production and the customer's processing method. The synergetic effect is generated through the combined use of the steel material design/production technology and utilization/solution technology for supporting the customer's production/heat treatment process operations, thus contributing to the improvement of product values and productivity of the customer.

We hope that the information in this issue will be of great help and through this readers will recognize our efforts on special steel bar and wire rod products, which provide the framework for automobiles and construction machinery and are used for construction and civil engineering that can be seen anywhere, and welcome our initiatives for the production technology and utilization/solution technology. In order to meet your expectations, we will strive to enhance our production and technical capabilities. As always, we appreciate your continuing support and guidance for our activities.