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Nippon Steel Corporation

Nippon Steel Signs Global basis Long-term Joint Technical Collaboration Agreement with BlueScope Steel for Coated Steel Products for the Building and Construction Market

Nippon Steel Corporation (“NSC”, - Head office: Tokyo, Japan; President and Representative Director: Mr. Shoji Muneoka) and BlueScope Steel Limited (“BSL”, - Head Office: Melbourne, Australia; Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer: Mr. Paul O’Malley) announces that they have signed a comprehensive and long-term joint technical collaboration agreement to develop the next-generation coated steel products for the global building and construction market.

BSL has continuous galvanizing lines and fabricating facilities in Asian countries and North America as well as in Australia, and has established a solid brand in the flat steel products market for the building and construction industry through vertically integrated activities ranging from the production of steel sheets to the fabrication of building materials. BSL has a 40 year working relationship with NSC, and in 2005, both companies entered into a distributorship agreement on SUPERDYMA®, targeting the building and construction market in Asia, Australia, and New Zealand.

Recently, both companies agreed to enter into a technical collaboration agreement for the joint research and development of the next generation coated steel products for the global building and construction market. Under this collaboration, both parties will conduct further joint research and development utilizing each other's facilities for research, production and processing.

The new product technologies will improve corrosion resistance performance, formability, and surface clearness, compared to the current product. Both companies will announce expected market launch timeframes in due course.

This technical collaborative agreement between BSL, which has established a solid position in the building steel sheet market, and NSC, which is one of the world’s leading steel manufacturers in terms of comprehensive ability, will create synergetic effects, strengthen their capabilities of advanced products development and response to customer needs in the building and construction market, and will achieve the enhancement of the values of both companies.

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