

April 22, 2011
Nippon Steel Corporation

Nippon Steel Announces Tinplate Joint Venture with Wuhan Steel

Nippon Steel Corporation (president: Shoji Muneoka; hereinafter referred to as “NIPPON STEEL”) and Wuhan Iron and Steel (Group) Corporation (president: Qilin Deng; hereinafter referred to as “WISCO”) have agreed to establish a joint venture named “WISCO-NIPPON STEEL Tinplate Co., Ltd.” in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China for the manufacture and sale of tinplates. With the population increases and rising living standards notable in new emerging nations, demand for tinplates for food cans, beverage cans, and other containers has been growing on a global basis. Likewise, in China’s mid-western area (the main target area of this project), tinplate demand will predictably gather strength in the future.

We, NIPPON STEEL, setting our sights firmly on our role as a global player, aim to combine and fuse together WISCO’s solid business base in China with NIPPON STEEL’s world-class technology for this joint venture. From this base in Wuhan City, we shall endeavor to catch the growing demand for tinplates, thus also contributing to the economic development of China through the provision of tinplate products.

NIPPON STEEL has long maintained amicable cooperative relations with WISCO (which has top-level scales of production and manufacturing technology in China) ever since the construction of the WISCO’s hot-rolling mill—a project symbolic of the restoration of diplomatic relations between Japan and China. Once again, taking aim at mutual benefit and equality, we have been working together, and have now obtained approval from China’s governmental authorities to establish this joint venture. Formal procedures necessary for the establishment of this joint venture will soon be taken.

The new company, when established, will be yet another NIPPON STEEL base for local production and marketing, serving the dual purpose of the global development of our tinplate business and our business development in this rapidly growing nation.

Outline of the joint venture:

Company name:	WISCO-NIPPON STEEL Tinplate Co., Ltd. (“WINSteel”)
Chinese name:	武钢新日铁（武汉）镀锡板有限公司
Location:	Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China

Plant & equipment (capacity): Continuous annealing and processing line (400,000 t/y)
Electrolytic tinning line (200,000 t/y)
Products: Tinplates, tin mill black plate
Scheduled start of operation: Summer 2013
Total investment: Approx. RMB1,850 million (approx. JPY24,000 million)
Equity ratios: NIPPON STEEL 50%, WISCO 50%

For more information, please contact:

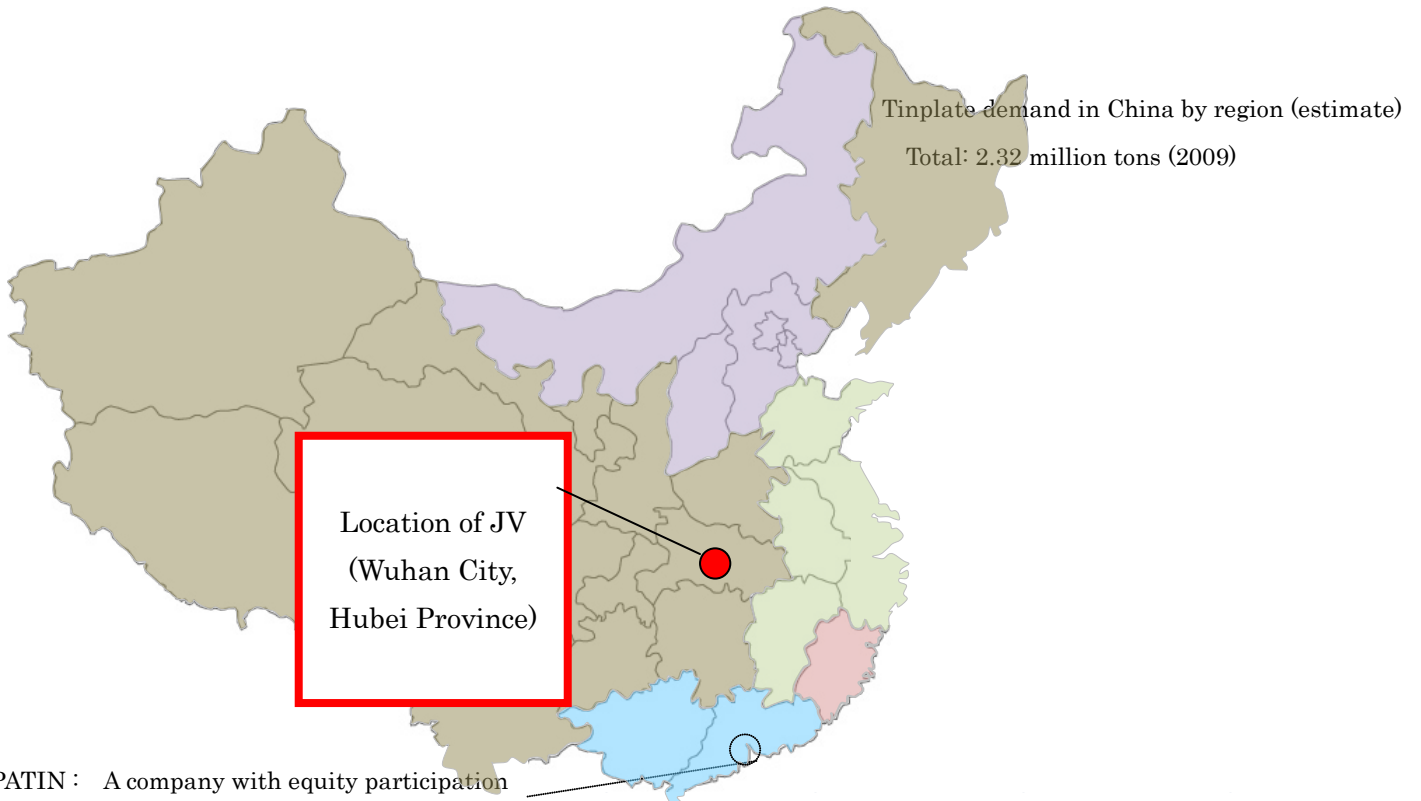
Public Relations Center, General Administration Div.

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Attachment: Reference

(1) Location of the joint venture

Location : Qingshan, Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China (on the premises of WISCO's plant)



Growth of tinplate demand in China (estimate)

	2009	2015	Over2009
(Unit: mil t/y)	2.32	3.28-3.70	+0.96-+1.38

(2) Profile of Wuhan Iron & Steel Group Corporation

- Location: Qingshan, Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China
- Representative: Qilin Deng, President
- Establishment: September 1958
- Shareholder: Government of China 100%
- Crude steel production: 30,340 thousand tons(2009)
- Sales in value: 140 billion yuan(2009)

(3) Examples of tinplate products

Food cans(packaged) and beverage cans



Tinplate Mills of NSC Group

Company	Location	Established	shares held by NSC	Capacity (thousand tons per year)
LATINUSA	Indonesia	1982	35%	130
STP	Thailand	1988	15.6%	260
PATIN	China	1994	25%	200
WINSteel	China	scheduled 2011	50%	200(Tinplate)

