

November 4, 2011  
Nippon Steel Corporation

**Nippon Steel Established a Tinsplate Joint Venture with WISCO**

Nippon Steel Corporation (President: Shoji Muneoka; hereinafter referred to as “NIPPON STEEL”), in April of this year, announced the agreement with Wuhan Iron and Steel (Group) Corporation (President: Qilin Deng; hereinafter referred to as “WISCO”) to establish a joint venture for the manufacture and sale of tinsplate in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China, and now, upon completion of the procedural steps that have since been followed on both sides, the joint venture named “WISCO-NIPPON STEEL Tinsplate Co., Ltd.” was formally established on October 25, 2011. An establishment ceremony, with attendance of top managements of both parties, was held in Wuhan on November 3.

Construction of this joint venture’s plant will start in the early months of next year on the premises of WISCO’s steelworks located in Wuhan City, with completion date scheduled for fiscal 2013.

With the population increases and rising living standards notable in new emerging nations, demand for tinsplates 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 joint venture), tinsplate 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’s leading technologies for this joint venture. From this base in Wuhan City, we shall endeavor to catch the growing demand for tinsplates, thus also contributing to the economic development of China through the provision of tinsplate products.

WISCO, which has top-level scales of production and manufacturing technology in China, has long maintained amicable relations with NIPPON STEEL ever since the construction of WISCO’s hot-rolling mill—then a project symbolic of the restoration of diplomatic relations between Japan and China.

This joint venture, now established, is to be yet another NIPPON STEEL base for local production and marketing, serving the dual purpose of the global development of our tinsplate business and our business development in this rapidly growing nation.

**Outline of the joint venture:**

**Company name:**

**WISCO-NIPPON STEEL Tinsplate Co., Ltd.  
(Abbreviation: WINSteel)**

**(Chinese name:**

**武钢新日铁（武汉）镀锡板有限公司)**

**Location:** Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China  
**Production equipment (capacity):** Continuous annealing and processing line (400,000 t/y)  
Electrolytic tinning line (200,000 t/y)  
**Products:** Tinplate, tin mill black plate  
**Scheduled start of operation:** FY2013  
**Total investment:** Approx. RMB1,850 million (approx. JPY23,000 million)  
**Capital:** RMB740 million  
**Equity ratios:** NIPPON STEEL 50%, WISCO 50%

**[Establishment ceremony]**



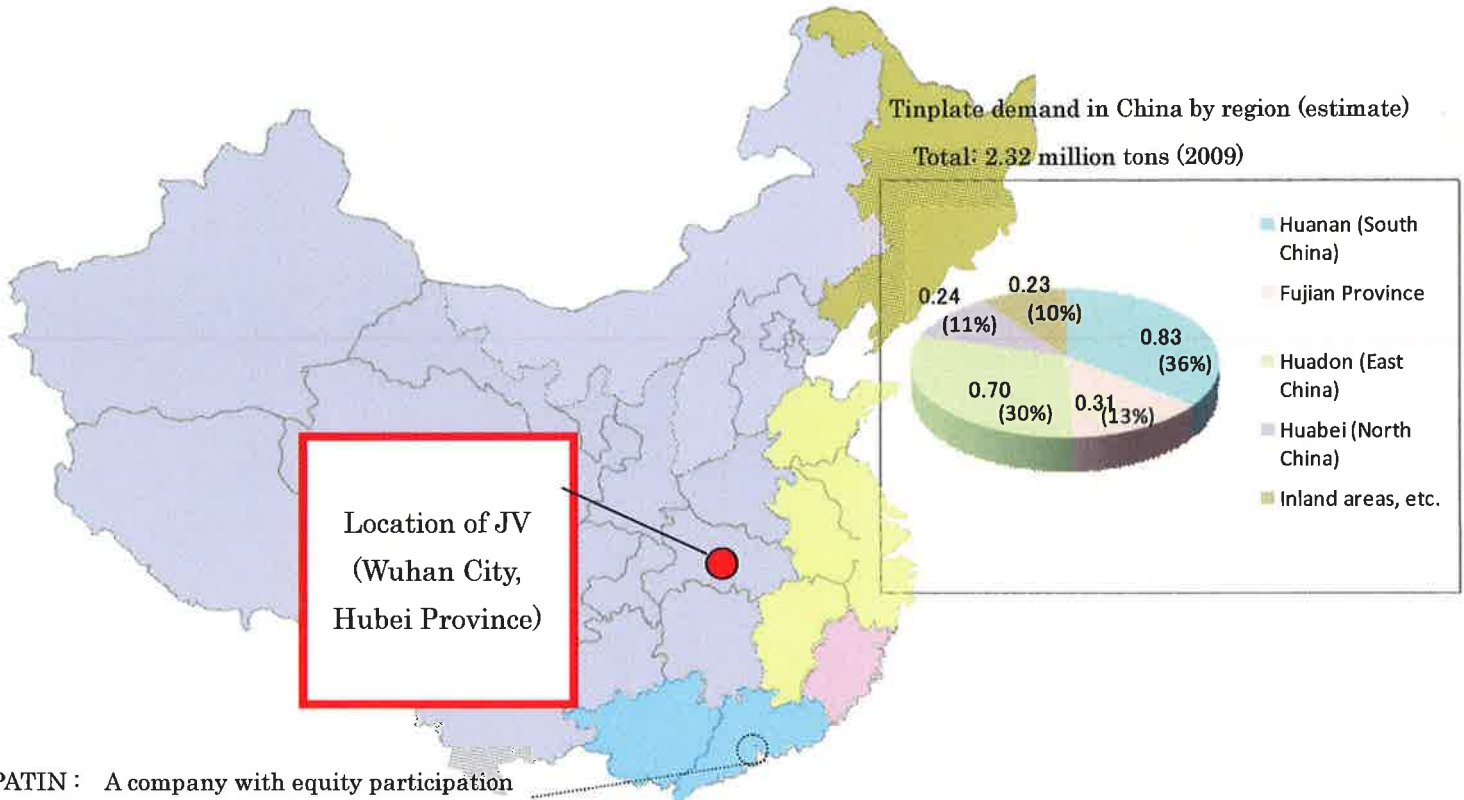


**For more information, please contact:  
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Attachment: Reference

( 1 ) Location of the joint venture

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



PATIN : A company with equity participation in NIPPON STEEL (Guangzhou City)

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: 36,550 thousand tons(2010)
- Sales in value: 190 billion yuan(2010)

( 3 ) Examples of tinplate products

Food cans(packed) and beverage cans



## Tinplate Mills of NSC Group

