

## Europe

### **Acciaierie d'Italia to shut down coke battery No.12**

#### **Europe / Flat Products**

Acciaierie d'Italia (former Ilva) lost the battle for keeping its biggest coke battery operational. A court ordered a shutdown of the battery by the end of next month. Blast furnace No.4 is at risk.

The regional court of Lazio rejected Acciaierie d'Italia's appeal to extend the deadline for the modernisation of Taranto's biggest coke battery No.12 till January 31, 2022. Originally, the deadline was set for June 30 by the Ministry's decree of September 2019.

The steelmaker wanted to win extra time to conduct environmental investments, but now they have to shut down the battery till August 31. The coke battery cannot be restarted until necessary modernization is made to comply with environmental requirements. Acciaierie d'Italia did not comment on the matter by the time of the article publication.

The stoppage of the coke battery will be an obstacle for recovering Taranto's steel production as it feeds the recently restarted 2.3 million tpy BF No.4. Acciaierie d'Italia has reportedly built some coke stocks to ensure the BF operations.

Meantime, a new board of directors was appointed at Acciaierie d'Italia. It includes three representatives from ArcelorMittal and three from Invitalia, which owns 38% of shareholding and equal voting rights with joint control over the company.

Lucia Morselli is appointed as CEO and Franco Bernabe, Invitalia's representative, as Chairman of Acciaierie d'Italia.

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### **ArcelorMittal invests \$25 million in sustainable energy storage development**

#### **Europe / Long products, Flat Products**

ArcelorMittal made a second investment under its XCarb initiative. It will develop battery technology amid the journey towards decarbonisation.

ArcelorMittal has invested \$25 million in Form Energy, a company working on a low-cost energy storage technology to enable "a fully-renewable electric grid year-round," according to the company's official statement. This step will help ArcelorMittal accelerate the transition to carbon neutrality, reducing electric energy costs and switching to green energy sources, Metal Expert learnt. ArcelorMittal and Form Energy will also work on assessing potential of the steel producer to provide iron as input for Form Energy's battery technology, Metal Expert learnt.

"The multi-day energy storage technology they have developed holds exciting potential to overcome the issue of intermittent supply of renewable energy," said head of R&D at ArcelorMittal Greg Ludkovsky. "In addition to our investment, there are obvious synergies we are exploring with them. These include from ArcelorMittal supplying iron for their battery solutions, through to the potential their batteries hold to deliver us a permanent, reliable supply of renewably generated energy for