



PRESS RELEASE

On the 13th September it was produced the first casting of the No.2 Electric Furnace of the Kentucky Factory, NORTH AMERICAN STAINLESS, belonging to ACERINOX Group.

With this new 150 Mt furnace, supplied by SIEMENS-VAI, the annual capacity of NAS melting shop amounts to 1 million Mt (until now it was 800,000 Mt). This factory expansion has involved a total investment of 55 million USD.

At present, NAS is contracting the No.2 AOD converter, an annealing and pickling line for hot coil, No.5 Sendzimir cold rolling mill and various finishing equipments for stainless steel long products, with which the factory will be perfectly balanced at the end of year 2008, when it will reach an annual capacity of 1,415,000 Mt.

Total scheduled investment amounts to 270 million USD.

18th September 2006