

AIST Italy Steel Forum 2012

Economy...Energy...Environment

Review

The AIST Italy Steel Forum 2012 was held 18 October at the Pomini Tenova Conference Center in Castellanza, Italy. The one-day forum highlighted important issues for today's steel industry, and attracted 98 participants.

The program began with an Industry Leader Town Hall Forum, moderated by **Enrico Romagna Manoja**, economic editor for *Il Mondo*. Panelists included:

- **George Babcoke**, senior vice president — Europe and global operations, U. S. Steel
- **Ludovit Gajdos**, president, CMC Europe
- **Doug Jellison**, vice president and general manager, international business, Nucor
- **Dmitrij Ščuka**, CEO, Evraz Europe

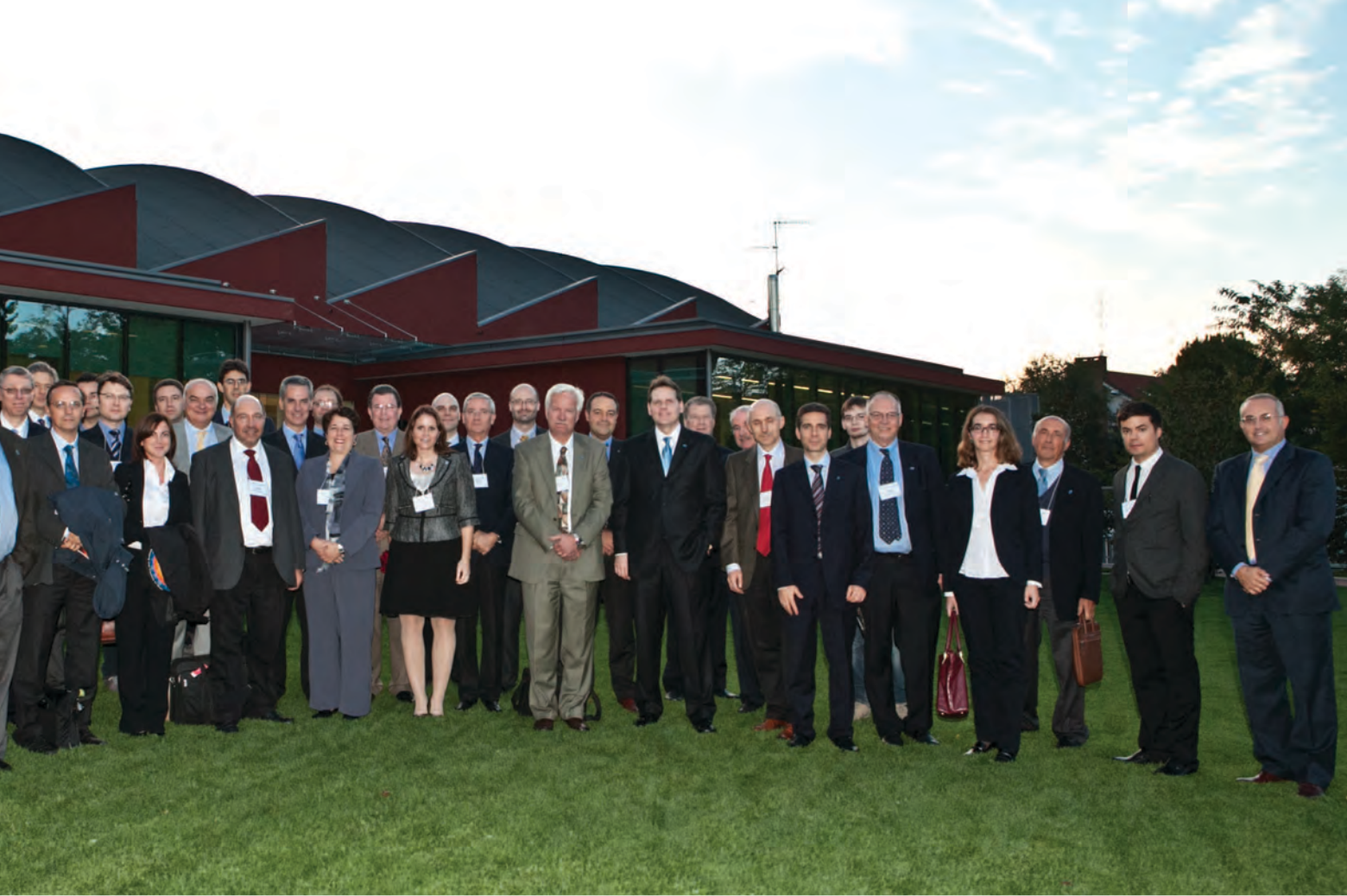
The group discussed the eurozone financial crisis and the impact it is having on European steel demand; energy and environmental issues related to the steel industry; new technologies that are providing energy savings and emissions reductions for steelmakers; as well as safety, health and sustainability issues. The unique format of the AIST Town Hall Forum encouraged significant debate between the panelists and the audience, and was well received by the attendees.

The program continued with a remote presentation by **Eric Stuart**, vice president — energy and environment, Steel Manufacturers Association, based in Washington, D.C. Mr. Stuart discussed key issues facing the North American EAF industry and how industry leaders, SMA and the federal government are working together to protect the environment while maintaining the sustainability of EAF steelmaking. Issues presented were: EAF Area Source Rule on Mercury; Utilizing Steelmaking Slag as a Resource, Not a Waste Product; and Ensuring Radiation-Free Scrap for the EAF Industry. His presentation concluded with an overview of how coal-based power may be phased out in favor of new natural gas resources in North America and the impact this will have on the long-term availability of energy for the EAF steelmaking industry.

Following Mr. Stuart's presentation, the attendees enjoyed a relaxing lunch and a tour of the Pomini factory, hosted by Pomini CEO, **Mr. Mauro Medici**.

1. Doug Jellison speaks during the Industry Leader Town Hall. Dmitrij Ščuka looks on in the background.
2. George Babcoke (left) of U. S. Steel and Ludovit Gajdos (right) of CMC Europe during the Industry Leader Town Hall.
3. The EAF Experts included (left to right): Stephan Ferenczy, Eugene Pretorius, Harriet Dutka and Jeremy Jones.





The afternoon session began with the EAF Experts Panel. This unique panel encouraged debate regarding various practices and procedures with experienced EAF personnel from North America. With the prevalence of EAF steel production in Italy, the panel provided local EAF producers an opportunity to share experiences and practices with their colleagues from North America. The panelists represented years of practical, operational experience in EAF steelmaking, and included:

- **Harriet Dutka**, site manager, Charter Steel – Cleveland, Ohio
- **Stephan Ferenczy**, casting manager, Steel Dynamics Inc. – Flat Rolled Division
- **Jeremy Jones**, consultant
- **Eugene Pretorius**, manager — steelmaking technologies, Nucor Steel–Berkeley

Francesco Memoli, vice president, Tenova Core, served as moderator. The panel discussed numerous subjects of interest to EAF producers around the world:

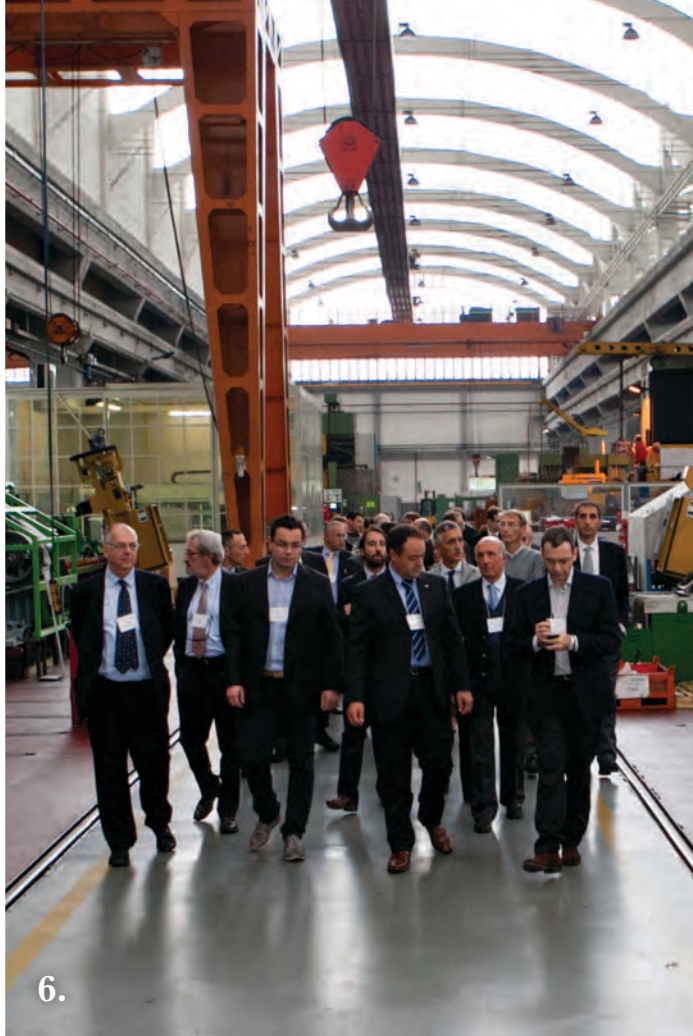
- The improvement of operational consistency and safety performance through automation of taphole sanding, sampling and tapping.
- Opportunities for operational savings through optimization of material usage, tracking of energy distribution, improvement in endpoint prediction, energy efficiency and heat recovery.
- Scrap availability and the utilization of scrap substitutes, as access to quality scrap resources has declined.
- Comparing EAF slag practices between Europe and North America, including the use of high MgO vs. frequent off-line bottom shell refractory changes.
- New furnace designs utilizing super-sized shells to produce larger (>250 tonnes) heats, including:
 - How well do they perform?
 - What is the impact to the local grid?
 - What is the best tap-to-tap time achievable with current technology?
- The latest technology to improve real-time EAF operational feedback.

The panelists had the opportunity to present their practices for each subject, and the audience responded to create a dialogue between continents. Of particular interest to the entire group was the discussion on safety improvement practices and increasing operational efficiencies through slag practice, furnace design and new technology to improve waste-heat utilization and energy savings.

The day's program concluded with a banquet for all attendees hosted by Pomini. AIST looks forward to continuing to serve the iron and steel industry in the region with its unique blend of networking and educational programs. ◆

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4. Mario Bianchi Ferri and Raimondo di Carpegna, both of Tenova, during the AIST Italy Steel Forum 2012.
 5. Pietro Traini, industrial process senior technologist, Tenaris Dalmine SpA, asking a question during the EAF Experts Panel discussion.
 6. The attendees of the AIST Italy Steel Forum toured the Pomini Tenova manufacturing facility in Castellanza, Italy.
 7. Mauro Medici (right) shows the latest Pomini technology to George Babcoke and Dave Rintoul, president of U. S. Steel Košice s.r.o.





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AIST wishes to thank Mr. Mauro Medici, CEO of Pomini, for his gracious commitment of resources to ensure the success of the AIST Italy Steel Forum 2012.

Mr. Medici's boundless energy and sincere enthusiasm for his company, his teammates, and for the steel industry are remarkable and were appreciated by all in attendance.

