



AIST Road Show Visits Steel Dynamics Inc. – Flat Roll Group Columbus

On 28 July 2015, Steel Dynamics Inc. (SDI) – Flat Roll Group Columbus hosted AIST’s inaugural Road Show in Columbus, Miss., USA. The AIST Road Show was created to promote the value of AIST membership, including activities that will benefit employees through training and networking, and demonstrate how AIST programs can help people perform their jobs more effectively.

The support and assistance of Madhu Ranade, vice president and general manager, and Ray Hamer, human resources director, were instrumental to the success of the Road Show. AIST staff and current AIST president, George Koenig, president, Berry Metal Company, spoke with nearly 200 SDI employees during breakfast and lunch about how AIST can provide opportunities to learn new skills and increase their plant’s efficiency. Even seasoned veterans listened closely to discussions focused on creating networks to solve problems unique to their specific areas of the plant.

The Road Show displayed the technical opportunities and training avenues AIST has developed.



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AIST Technology Training conferences were discussed, including Hot Flat Rolling Fundamentals, Modern Electric Steelmaking, Ladle Refractory and Secondary Steelmaking, Maintenance Solutions, and Safety and Health. Technical enhancements through involvement in AIST's study tours was another positive networking opportunity promoted by the Road Show. Also encouraged was involvement in AIST's Technology Committees, which can enable members to build successful relationships with their counterparts across the industry.

Andronaco Industries sponsored the Road Show and offered a tabletop display for SDI employees. Ron Porter, corrosion solutions manager, represented Andronaco and expressed enthusiasm regarding his experience, "The Road Show offered us the opportunity for a focused presentation of our products in a unique and comfortable environment. Our partnership with AIST confirmed our credibility and engendered an atmosphere of mutual respect between Andronaco Industries and Steel Dynamics Inc."

In addition to hosting this event, AIST board director Kamallesh Mandal, senior metallurgist/technical resource coordinator, and Jason King, human resources representative, gave the AIST crew an in-depth tour of the Columbus facility.

The support of SDI's management benefited all parties involved. Employees felt encouraged to discuss their personal and professional development with the AIST staff, and in return, AIST was able to provide SDI's employees with the prospect of continuing their education through Technology

Training courses, and networking opportunities with local Member Chapters and Technology Committees.

George Koenig stated, "I was so proud to be part of the first AIST Road Show. It was very rewarding to see the execution of an idea produce immediate and very positive results! With the help of Steel Dynamics, AIST was able to bring the 'footprint' of the AIST organization directly to the steel shop. It was educational for both sides, as many people who had never heard of the organization, or were not members, had the opportunity to see and hear about AIST. We saw that there are people out there who want to learn more and want to grow. With the support of SDI, we were able to create a new learning opportunity for its employees. This success reinforces our mission of bringing AIST to the mills. There is a need for this type of event, and the AIST Road Show can provide the answer."

The AIST roadies had a fantastic experience at SDI and are looking forward to getting on the road again. The Road Show is the perfect way for AIST to accomplish its mission of advancing the technical development, production, processing and application of iron

and steel by visiting various facilities and interacting with/supporting the employees who make up the industry.

Ray Hamer expressed, "The AIST Road Show was very informative, and the Road Show crew was a pleasure to work with. Our employees enjoyed learning about the training classes and resources that are available to make their jobs more efficient and also a way to better their skill sets. The Columbus site feels very fortunate to be chosen as the first stop on AIST's journey. Do yourself a favor and visit an AIST Road Show near you."

Thank you to Madhu Ranade, Ray Hamer, and the entire SDI team for their full support and for making the Road Show an awesome experience. AIST would also like to extend a special thanks to Glenn Pushis, past AIST president and vice president — sheet products, SDI – Flat Roll Group Butler, for volunteering SDI as the inaugural host facility.

If your company is interested in hosting the AIST Road Show or being a sponsor at a future Road Show, please contact Bill Albaugh at balbaugh@aist.org or +1.724.814.3010.



George Koenig (left) and Ron Ashburn (right) present Madhu Ranade with a plaque of appreciation for hosting the inaugural AIST Road Show.

