AIST-IAS Simposio de Grúas (Crane Symposium)

3–5 November 2014 / Rosario, Santa Fe, Argentina

Instituto Argentino de Siderurgia (IAS) and AIST collaborated to bring fundamental crane maintenance practices and advanced crane technology to the steel industry of Argentina. The AIST-IAS Simposio de Grúas was held at the City Center Convention Center in Rosario, Santa Fe, Argentina, on 3–5 November 2014. The event was co-located with the 20th Conferencia del Acero IAS 2014 and the Seminario de Refractarios de Cuchara to maximize the attendee experience and networking. The symposium delivered practical information and experiences from crane maintenance personnel, crane manufacturers, equipment manufacturers and engineering consultants. The goal of the program was to provide knowledge to the attendees and work to make electric overhead traveling (EOT) cranes and their runways the safest, most reliable, durable machinery and equipment in the industry.

Twenty-seven presentations were given by representatives from North and South America during the two-day event, focusing on safe work practices and ergonomics, electrical, mechanical and structural maintenance techniques, crane inspection technologies, and best practices in EOT crane modernizations. A total of 180 individuals attended the symposium, representing crane maintenance personnel, safety, service, and design engineers and those individuals who supply parts, equipment and services to the industry. Representatives from eight countries from three continents were in attendance, making it a truly international conference. Sixty percent of attendees were direct users of cranes from the steel, aluminum and power generation industries. Ternium Siderar, Tenaris Siderca, Acindar ArcelorMittal Group, Gerdau Sipar and AcerBrag (Votorantim Group) provided nearly half of the attendance to the symposium.

Ternium Siderar hosted a plant tour for the attendees. The tour included the basic oxygen furnace facility, the continuous casting cranes and a visit to the Port of San Nicolas to see the port cranes in operation.

20th IAS Steel Conference 2014

3–6 November 2014 / Rosario, Santa Fe, Argentina

A IST attended and exhibited at the 20th IAS Steel Conference, held in conjunction with the The AIST-IAS Simposio de Grúas. Thirty-one exhibiting companies participated and 93 technical papers were presented during the conference. The event attracted close to 500 delegates from Argentina, Canada, Germany, Mexico, Spain, Austria, Italy, Brazil, Chile, the U.S., Peru, France, Luxembourg, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Japan, Bolivia, the United Kingdom, Paraguay and Colombia.

The program kicked off the evening of 3 November 2014 with remarks from special dignitaries from Argentina and a presentation on "Opportunities and Perspectives of the Argentina Steel Industry," by José Giraudo, CEO, Acindar ArcelorMittal Group. The opening ceremony was followed by a cocktail reception in the exhibit hall. On 4 November 2014, attendees had an opportunity to visit the IAS Expo to learn about products, services and technologies from the various participating companies. The technical sessions took place on 5–6 November 2014, and were highlighted by the following plenary lectures: "RH Vacuum Degassing Process," by Dr. Sergio Costa, Brazil; "Application of Physical and Mathematical Modeling as Steelmaking Process Engineering Tool," by Dr. Jesus Barreto, Mexico; "Safety in Steelmaking Companies," a discussion on safety management by Ternium Siderar and Acindar ArcelorMittal Group; and an international short course entitled "Low-Cost Hot Metal Using Co-Injection of Coal and Natural Gas," led by Maarten Geerdes. The event closed with visits to Acindar ArcelorMittal Group and Ternium Siderar.

AIST and IAS are currently reviewing options for a joint technology training seminar, to be held in conjunction with the 21st IAS Steel Conference in November 2015. Additional information will be available on AIST's Steel Calendar once the details have been finalized. ✦