



FROM: AIST Foundation
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AIST FOUNDATION ADDS RUSSO TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

PITTSBURGH, September 15, 2006 – AIST announces the addition of **Thomas J. Russo**, general manager, Mittal Steel USA – Sparrows Point to the AIST Foundation Board of Trustees (BOT). Russo term will begin immediately and conclude in May of 2007. The Foundation board is governed by 14 trustees representing various interests within the steel industry. The trustees are a vital component of the AIST Foundation’s governance, which relies on their leadership and direction to further the objectives and goals of the Foundation in accordance with its bylaws.

Bill Breedlove, Foundation President, said, “Tom Russo is a great addition to the AIST Foundation Board of Trustees. Tom’s knowledge of the steel industry coupled with his vast experience as an AIST Director will serve the BOT well. Through the various Foundation programs and activities, we endeavor to attract the best talent available to our industry to ensure a stronger steel industry for tomorrow. Tom Russo is committed to this goal, and we look forward to his input as an AIST Foundation Trustee.”

Thomas J. Russo, general manager, Mittal Steel USA – Sparrows Point

Thomas J. Russo began his career in 1977 at Bethlehem Steel’s Sparrows Point rod and wire mill as a management trainee. He was assigned to several supervisory positions of increasing responsibility until 1984, when he was transferred to the steelmaking department. Russo was assigned as one of the caster engineers in steelmaking during the design, construction and start-up of the continuous slab caster facility. Four years later, he became general foreman — casting. In 1989, he became assistant superintendent of the BOF and casting operations. In June 1998, as a result of the restructuring of the Sparrows Point Div. into product groups, he was promoted to manager — slab group. In May 2001, he was assigned to the cold mill as manager — cold roll products group. Four months later, as a result of a Bethlehem corporate restructuring of commercial and sales, he became manager — cold roll operations. In May 2003, he was offered the position of division manager — steel producing at Sparrows Point by International Steel Group. In July 2004, ISG promoted Russo to senior manager — primary operations, and he now serves as general manager at Mittal Steel USA – Sparrows Point. Russo holds a B.S. degree in mechanical engineering from the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

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2006–2007**

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The AIST Foundation seeks to attract young technology-oriented professionals to the industry by promoting the high-tech, diverse and well-paying nature of careers in modern steelmaking. Scholarships and grants are awarded on an annual basis to talented and dedicated students to encourage the pursuit of a career within iron and steel-related industries. Approximately \$300,000 will be awarded in 2006 through the AIST Foundation and its affiliated groups. The AIST Foundation is a Pennsylvania-based, 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation that is part of AIST, an international professional and technical association of more than 11,600 professional and student members. As the industry evolves, the AIST Foundation will strive to develop new and innovative programs to support the future of the iron and steel technology. For more information about AIST, visit www.aist.org.

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Editor's Note: For an individual photo or more information, please contact Stacy Varnecky, AIST Membership Communications Manager; Phone: (724) 776-6040, ext. 637 or e-mail: svarnecky@aist.org.