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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASSOCIATION FOR IRON & STEEL TECHNOLOGY REACHES RECORD MEMBERSHIP

PITTSBURGH, 5 December 2019 — The Association for Iron & Steel Technology (AIST) has reached a record level in its professional membership count. At the close of November 2019, AIST surpassed its previous high-water mark of 13,257 professional members set in 1980. The association's professional membership count now stands at 13,367.

Ronald E. Ashburn, AIST's executive director, said, "AIST is grateful for the support of our members in achieving this milestone. With individual members from over 70 countries and five continents, AIST represents a vital global network for anyone involved in the steel industry. Our roots may date back to 1871, but AIST is in great shape to take on the future with programs to help make steel smarter through digitalization and Industry 4.0."

Through its 30 Technology Committees focused on specific steelmaking processes and 22 regional Member Chapters, AIST is committed to presenting superior technical meetings, conferences, exhibits and publications to better serve those involved in the iron and steel community, including steel manufacturers, suppliers, consumers and academics.

AIST organizes a number of major forums, including the world's largest annual steel conference, AISTech — The Iron & Steel Conference and Exhibition, which will be held at the Huntington Convention Center of Cleveland, Cleveland, Ohio, 4–7 May 2020. AIST's events provide international opportunities for the exchange of ideas, experiences and knowledge. In addition, AIST's Technology Committees host a wide variety of training programs that address specific processes, engineering, equipment and reliability technologies. Highlights for 2020 include the second Digital Transformation Forum for the Steel Industry, to be held in Pittsburgh, Pa., 16–18 March 2020.

Dr. Ronald J. O'Malley, AIST's current president and the F. Kenneth Iverson Chair Professor in Steelmaking Technologies and director, Kent D. Peaslee Steelmaking Manufacturing Research Center, Missouri University of Science & Technology, said, "There are a tremendous number of business, education and networking opportunities for AIST members. You have direct contact with individuals at all levels of the steel industry. Over my career, I've used these contacts to seek guidance and advice on developing new practices, new products and even starting up new facilities."

AIST professional membership ranges from its longest-standing member of 67 years, to a growing number of Young Professionals under 30.

AIST was formed in 2004 from the merger of the Iron & Steel Society (ISS) and the Association for Iron and Steel Engineers (AISE). Each predecessor organization possessed a rich historical background.

ISS was formed in 1974 as the fourth constituent society of the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers (AIME), along with the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration (SME); The Minerals, Metals, and Materials Society (TMS); and the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE). AIME was formed in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., in 1871 as the American Institute of Mining Engineers.

ASSOCIATION FOR IRON & STEEL TECHNOLOGY REACHES RECORD MEMBERSHIP

Page 2

AISE was established in 1907 when a group of 28 electrical and mechanical engineers and superintendents from prominent iron and steel companies gathered in Pittsburgh, Pa., to attend a special exhibit of electrical equipment for possible use in their plants. The first Iron and Steel Exhibition was held in St. Louis, Mo., in 1919, a tradition that continues to this day as part of AISTech — The Iron & Steel Conference and Exposition.

[AIST](#) is a non-profit technical association of 18,500 student and professional members, from 70 countries, with the mission to advance the technical development, production, processing and application of iron and steel. The organization is recognized as a global leader in networking, education and sustainability programs for advancing iron and steel technology.

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