

BlueScope rejects takeover bid from SGH, Steel Dynamics

North America

The board of BlueScope announced in January that it has unanimously rejected a takeover bid from a consortium including SGH Ltd. and Steel Dynamics Inc.

The company said it unanimously rejected the offer due to its significantly undervaluing BlueScope. The consortium offered US\$30.00 per share, though the value for shareholders would be less due to the time which would be required for the takeover.

"[The offer] drastically undervalued our world-class assets, our growth momentum, and our future — and the board will not let that happen. This is the fourth time we've said no, and the answer remained the same — BlueScope is worth considerably more than what was on the table," said Jane McAloon, BlueScope's chair.

POSCO to invest US\$582 million in Hyundai Steel's Louisiana steel mill

North America

POSCO will invest US\$582 million for a 20% stake in Hyundai Steel's new electric arc furnace plant in Louisiana, according to GMK Center.

The total cost of the project is estimated at US\$5.8 billion. Half of the funding will come from four companies including Hyundai Steel, Hyundai Motor, Kia and POSCO. The rest of the funding will come from external borrowing, GMK Center said.

U. S. Steel to reactivate Illinois blast furnace

North America

United States Steel Corporation is restarting an idled blast furnace at its Granite City Works in Illinois, the steelmaker announced in December.

"After several months of carefully analyzing customer demand, we made the decision to restart a blast furnace," U. S. Steel president and chief executive officer David B. Burritt said in a statement. "Steel remains a highly competitive and highly cyclical industry, but we are confident in our ability to safely and profitably operate the mill to meet 2026 demand."

The company said it will reactivate Granite City's B furnace, which has been idled since 2023.

Report: Mexico's senate approves tariff hikes on China, other Asian countries

North America

Mexico's Senate in December approved tariff hikes of up to 50% in 2026 on imports from China and multiple other Asian countries, Reuters reported.

The proposal will raise or impose new duties of up to 50% on goods including automobiles, auto parts, textiles, clothing, plastics and steel from countries without trade deals with Mexico. This includes China, India, South Korea, Thailand and Indonesia, Reuters said. Most products will have tariffs up to 35% imposed on them.

China's Ministry of Commerce responded: "China has always opposed all forms of unilateral tariff increases and hopes Mexico will correct such unilateralist and protectionist practices as soon as possible."

Danieli universal rail mill inaugurated at Rocky Mountain Steel Mills

North America

Rocky Mountain Steel Mills, owned by Orion Steel, has inaugurated its new Danieli universal rail mill in Pueblo, Colo., USA.

The company said the new rail mill will produce flat-bottom and thick-web rails up to 88 kg/m in lengths up to 100 m and hardness up to 425 BHN. It can produce 650,000 short tons annually.

Commissioned equipment includes the breakdown mill, tandem reversing mill, cooling bed, and the horizontal and vertical straighteners. The mill features Danieli technologies in rolling, automation and process control.

SMS group to supply Haynes with hydraulic radial forging line

North America

Nickel and cobalt alloys specialist Haynes International Inc. has ordered a hydraulic radial forging line from SMS group, the equipment manufacturer announced in January.

SMS group said the radial forging line will feature the SMX 800 / 25 MN hydraulic radial forging machine, reheating and annealing furnaces and quenching equipment. It also will have loading robot, cutting, unloading and bar finishing equipment. Also included in the investment will be a vacuum induction melting facility.

The SMX 800 / 25 MN is estimated to deliver 25 MN per forging cylinder for a combined total of 100 MN pressing force. The SMX hydraulic radial forging technology features a hydraulic drive system which needs less space to operate and improves energy efficiency. The company estimates it will cut electrical power requirements by about

50% and peak power demand by 60%.

Haynes, a part of Acerinox-owned North American Stainless, said the investment expands its production capabilities, allowing it to better serve the aerospace and chemical processing markets in the U.S.

“The SMX hydraulic radial forging machine enables the forming of large, critical components for the aerospace industry,” said Thomas Winterfeldt, head of forging plants at SMS group.

SMS group said its reheating and annealing furnaces can achieve and control stock temperature in accordance with requirements. They will feature low-NOx burners and use an integrated recuperative system.

The forging line will be integrated with SMS group’s MIDIS production and control system, allowing for operation without an operator. It will also have the Comforge® software tools.

The companies said the project is scheduled for completion in 2027.

Polytec Technology Training Center unveiled

North America

Polytec North America, part of Italian-owned BM Group, has launched the Polytec Technology Training Center, a hub dedicated to technical training, innovation and collaboration across North America.

Located in its Houston, Texas, headquarters, the center features advanced automation, robotics and vision system technologies. It is particularly of interest to the Italian community in Texas, along with local institutions.

“The growth of our U.S. organization is the direct result of an exceptional team, professionals who work every day with passion, competence and a commitment that is truly appreciated by our American customers,” said Nicola Bertoni, chief executive officer at Polytec North America.

Bertoni went on to discuss planned initiatives in collaboration with the Italian Consulate for 2026, which she hopes will strengthen the relationship between Polytec, the institutions and the community.

The training center was dedicated in memory of the company’s colleague Filippo Guenzani.

Russel Metals closes US\$102 million acquisition of U.S. service centers

North America

Russel Metals announced it has completed its US\$102 million acquisition of seven U.S. service centers from Kloeckner Metals Corp.

“We look forward to expanding our U.S. footprint in key geographic areas. We welcome the Kloeckner employees to the Russel family,” said John Reid, president and chief executive officer of Russel Metals.

The company said the seven service centers are located in Dubuque, Iowa; Charlotte, N.C.; Suwanee, Georgia; Houston, Texas; Austin, Texas; Jacksonville, Fla.; and Pompano Beach, Fla.

thyssenkrupp idles electrical steel production in Europe

Europe

thyssenkrupp’s steel unit temporarily idled production of electrical steel in Europe due to cheap imports from Asia, Reuters reported.

The company’s electrical steel plants in Germany and France were idled from mid-December 2025 until the end of the year.

Starting last month, its Isbergues site in France will operate at half capacity for about four months, Reuters reported.

Tata Steel taps ANDRITZ to supply acid regeneration plant

Europe

ANDRITZ announced it has received an order to supply Tata Steel’s Port Talbot Works in Wales, U.K., with an acid regeneration plant.

The companies said the new plant meets the highest environmental standards and supports the planned capacity expansion of the facility’s pickling line. It will be able to regenerate up to 6,340 liters per hour of waste acid.

“The new plant will remove the need for importing vast quantities of acid from overseas and exporting the spent liquids. This is a big step to decarbonize our pickling operations,” said Tata Steel project manager Paul Boxer.

It can operate both at the current pickling capacity of 1.2 million metric tons annually and the planned future capacity of 1.8 million metric tons annually, the companies estimate.

ANDRITZ’s exhaust cleaning technology keeps emission levels below regulatory limits while the integrated ECOmode function provides energy savings. The plant will also feature advanced process control, automation and cybersecurity.

The companies said the scope of supply includes design and supply of all mechanical and electrical equipment along with supervision of installation and commissioning.

Commissioning is scheduled for later 2027, the companies said.

GMH Gruppe commissions reducing and sizing block from KOCKS

Europe

KOCKS announced it has received an order from the GMH Gruppe for a reducing and sizing block

(RSB[®]) to be used at its site in Georgsmarienhütte, Germany.

KOCKS said the new RSB 445++/4 is made for deployment in two independent rolling lines. The machine was jointly developed to produce bar steel with high dimensional tolerances, surface quality and product excellence with increased operational flexibility.

“Our new rolling mill delivers exactly what our customers need: flexibility, precision and reliability,” said Marc-Oliver Arnold, plant director at Georgsmarienhütte GmbH.

The machine features remote control, state-of-the-art equipment for the roll shop and the BAMICON Octopus software and automation solution. It also has the latest generation of the 4D EAGLE S measuring gauge for in-process quality assurance.

The mobile RSB can move between the two rolling lines at the site. It operates in tandem with the downstream RSB 370++/6 as required, the company said.

ArcelorMittal announces three green energy projects in India

Asia

ArcelorMittal announced a US\$900 million investment in three renewable energy projects in India, providing 1 GW of new solar and wind capacity.

“With these new projects, we are doubling our renewable energy capacity in India, providing a secure supply of clean energy to our Indian steelmaking operations and strengthening our global footprint in clean power,” said Aditya Mittal, chief executive officer of ArcelorMittal.

The company said the facilities will be built in Amaravati, Bikaner and Bachau, and the power generated will be supplied to AM/NS India, ArcelorMittal’s 60/40 joint venture with Nippon Steel.

The Amaravati location is estimated to have a capacity of 36 MW of solar energy, expected to be completed in the first half of 2027.

The Bikaner location is estimated to have a capacity of 400 MW solar energy and 500 MWh of battery energy storage, expected to be completed in the first half of 2028.

The Bachau location is estimated to have a capacity of 250 MW of wind energy, 300 MW of solar energy and 300 MWh of integrated battery storage.

“Our approach is to invest in projects that are sustainable, economically sound and aligned with our ambition to make a meaningful contribution to the energy transition. These investments show how climate responsibility and business performance can go hand in hand,” Mittal continued.

The company said once the projects are completed, it expects there will be annual CO₂ savings of 4 million metric tons. It is also estimated to provide 35% of electricity requirements for AM/NS India’s Hazira steelmaking operations.

ArcelorMittal said it is working on additional renewable energy projects in joint-venture partnerships in Brazil and Argentina.

POSCO continues divestment from Nippon Steel

Asia

POSCO Holdings is moving to sell all of its remaining shares in Nippon Steel, building on a partial divestment earlier this year, according to *Business Korea*.

The move is expected to bring in an additional US\$136.51 million as POSCO shifts focus onto businesses including secondary battery materials and hydrogen. It will effectively end a decades-long mutual shareholding relationship between the two companies, *Business Korea* reported.

Toyo Kohan taps Primetals Technologies for pickling line upgrade

Asia

Japanese steel producer Toyo Kohan has tapped Primetals Technologies to modernize the pickling line at its Kudamatsu plant.

Primetals Technologies said the project includes upgrading coil handling with new entry-side transport equipment, replacing the pickling tanks with polypropylene tanks and installing a laser welding machine (LBW).

Entry-side equipment automates coil transport from the coil yard to the process line for improved handling efficiency. Polypropylene tanks eliminate the need for multi-material tank structures, simplifying maintenance, Primetals Technologies said.

The companies said the LBW can process steel sheets up to 9 mm thick using laser cutting and welding. This takes away reaction forces and allows for easier maintenance since the blade doesn’t have to be replaced, and clearance adjustments don’t have to be made, according to Primetals Technologies.

The companies said they expect the project to be completed in 2028.

