



## Industry news : October 2006

- Tata takes over Corus
- Europe's largest onshore wind farm starts construction
- 60% of workers at china clay firm taking redundancies
- New gas supply pipeline from Norway opens
- Cement firm fined £400 000 for polluting
- Compulsory purchase of South Crofty tin mine
- Foster Yeoman's Glensanda superquarry extension approved
- Vesuvius UK closing refractories' plants in Goole and Worksop

### Tata takes over Corus



Molten metal being prepared for casting

*Photo Copyright: Getty Images*

The Indian company Tata Steel has agreed terms on a takeover of the UK/Dutch steelmaker Corus. The takeover values Corus at £4.3 billion. Tata Steel is India's largest private sector steel company with a crude steel production of 5.3 million tonnes across India and South-East Asia. Corus is Europe's second largest steel producer with a crude steel production of 18.2 million tonnes, primarily in the UK (with plants at Rotherham, Teesside, Port Talbot, and Scunthorpe) and the Netherlands.

Source: <http://www.corusgroup.com/en/>

## Europe's largest onshore wind farm starts construction



UK windfarm

*Photo Copyright: BGS©NERC*

Construction is about to start on ScottishPower's Whitelee windfarm on Eaglesham Moor near Glasgow. This will be the biggest onshore windfarm in Europe. ScottishPower has signed contracts with Siemens (wind turbines) and Balfour Kilpatrick and Morrison Construction (civil engineering) worth £330 million. The windfarm will consist of 140 turbines producing a total of 322 MW when the site is fully operational in summer 2009.

ScottishPower Chief Executive Philip Bowman said: "This announcement underlines the importance of onshore wind to the Scottish economy. Over £100 million of the total investment is expected to be placed with local companies."

Source: <http://www.scottishpower.plc.uk/>

## 60% of workers at china clay firm taking redundancies



UK china clay production

*Photo Copyright: BGS©NERC*

Around 60% of the 600 Imerys workers facing job cuts during the restructuring of the china clay company have accepted voluntary redundancy as Imerys is moving its paper-coating operations to Brazil. Unions are threatening to take industrial action over pay-off terms.

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/cornwall/5400018.stm>

## New gas supply pipeline from Norway opens



North Sea platform

*Photo Copyright: BGS NERC*

The southern leg of Langeled, the world's longest underwater pipeline at 1200 km, began supplying natural gas this month from the Sleipner Platform in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea. The gas enters Britain's National Grid via a dedicated new terminal at Easington in East Yorkshire. It should provide around 20% of peak winter UK gas demand over the next 40 years. The link, which is costing £5.5 billion, is operated by Norsk Hydro and is due for completion next year when it will connect Ormen Lange, the largest gas field under development on the Norwegian continental shelf, via Nyhamna in Norway and the Sleipner platform to Easington. The gas will be stored in engineered underground caverns to help maintain gas supplies at times of high demand.

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/5396224.stm>

## Cement firm fined £400 000 for polluting

Cemex has been fined £400 000 after pleading guilty at Warwick Crown Court to one offence under the Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC) Regulations 2000. Poor maintenance of a silo door resulted in an emission from the plant on 14 October 2005 which covered local houses and cars in dust. The firm said the incident was a one-off and it has since changed procedures.

Source: <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/news/>

## Compulsory purchase of South Crofty tin mine

The South West Regional Development Authority (RDA) has agreed to provide funding to buy up to 147 acres of mainly brownfield land in the former tin-mining centre of Pool, including the 33-acre site of the South Crofty mine owned by Baseresult.

The RDA said the land would be redeveloped with a mixture of leisure and industrial use as well as up to 600 houses to generate 2000 new jobs. The RDA also said that the mine workings would be protected so that tin mining could restart if it became economically viable to do so. Baseresult have been attempting to reopen the mine since they purchased the site in 2001 and have just received planning permission to do so.

Source : <http://www.southwestrda.org.uk/news/release.asp?ReleaseID=1680>

### **Foster Yeoman's Glensanda superquarry extension approved**



UK quarry

*Photo Copyright: BGS©NERC*

Europe's largest coastal quarry at Glensanda, on Loch Linnhe near Fort William in western Scotland, has been given permission to expand by the local mineral planning authority. The quarry currently produces around 6 million tonnes per year. The site is now planned to expand by 200 acres and rock reserves will double to more than 800 million tonnes.

Sources :

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourcouncil/committees/strategicandselectcommittees/planningdevelopmentandcommunityservices/2006-09-27-pdet-min.htm>

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/highlands\\_and\\_islands/5384154.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/highlands_and_islands/5384154.stm)

### **Vesuvius UK closing refractories' plants in Goole and Worksop**

Vesuvius UK has announced that it is moving production of refractory products for the flow control of molten steel from Goole, East Yorkshire, to its existing site in Poland by June 2007. Due to competition from low-cost imports it is also closing a site in Worksop, Nottinghamshire, that manufactures magnesia carbon materials for lining vessels handling molten steel. 220 jobs will be lost at the two plants and through restructuring of the UK head offices.

Source : <http://www.gooletoday.co.uk/ViewArticle2.aspx?SectionID=766&ArticleID=1670926>