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The battle for control of Corus continues

The Brazilian steelmaker Companhia Siderurgica Nacional (CSN) is in strong competition with India's Tata Steel for control of the Anglo-Dutch Corus steel group. Following a 515 pence per share bid from CSN, which exceeds a 500 pence per share bid from Tata, the Takeover Panel has set a deadline of 30 January 2007 for agreement to be reached. The Takeover Panel has said it will begin an auction if the companies are still in competition. The current offer values Corus at £4.9bn (\$9.6bn).

Scottish wind farm plan revised



Windfarm

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Lewis Wind Power has submitted a revised proposal for a major wind energy development north of Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides of Scotland. This would cut the number of turbines from the originally planned 234 to 181. However, by the use of larger turbines, the development's generating capacity will only be cut from 700 Megawatts (MW) to 650 MW. Lewis Wind Power is a 50/50 joint venture between British Energy and AMEC. The £500 million development has attracted opposition from both local and conservation groups. The revised proposal will address these concerns by re-siting some turbines as well as cutting their overall numbers.

Source <http://www.lewiswind.com/news/press.php>

New £80 million steel furnace near Cardiff



Molten metal being prepared for casting
Photo Copyright: Getty Images

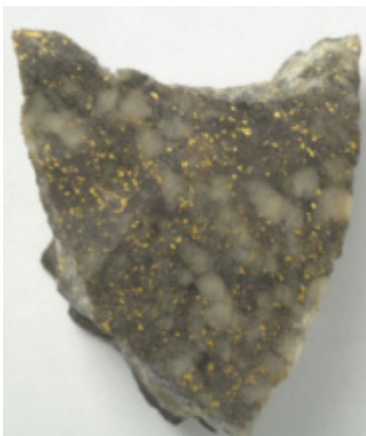
The Spanish company Celsa (Compañía Española de Laminación) , which bought the former Allied Steel and Wire (ASW) Cardiff steelworks in 2003, has announced that production will start in the spring of 2006 from a new electric melting and casting facility being built on the former ASW nail mill. The new facility's capacity is planned to exceed 1.2 million tonnes per year of cast billet produced from 100% recycled steel scrap.

Source <http://www.celsauk.com>

Northern Ireland gold project about to start production

Galantas Gold Corporation has recently announced that the first flotation trials at its Omagh open pit gold mine in Northern Ireland should commence before the end of 2006. Results were also announced for additional sampling of the main Kearney vein structure which hosts the mineralisation. A 262 m segment of the 850m-long vein gave a weighted average gold content, undiluted, of 17.49 grammes per tonne (g/t) with 51.53 g/t silver, using a grade cut-off of 3.0 g/t gold and a width cut-off of 0.3 m.

Source <http://www.galantas.com/corporate/s/NewsReleases06122006.html>



Gold sample
Photo Copyright: BGS©NERC

Historic Derbyshire iron foundry to close

St Gobain Pipelines has announced that iron waterpipe production will cease at its Stanton works near Ilkeston in Derbyshire during April 2007. 200 employees will lose their jobs, though some departments will stay at the site. The Stanton Ironworks has a long history going back over 150 years and employed up to 7000 people when it was part of the Tubes Division of the former British Steel Corporation.

Source <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/derbyshire/6212778.stm>

Tidal energy near Liverpool

A recently issued interim report, commissioned by the North West Development Agency and Peel Holdings, has suggested that the strong currents and 8 – 10 metre tidal range of the River Mersey near Liverpool could generate significant quantities of renewable energy. A range of options, including water wheels and underwater turbines, is being considered for the area. The full report will be completed by the summer of 2007.

Source <http://www.nwda.co.uk/>