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4 MANUFACTURING – MATERIALS SUPPLY

The Nordic countries' metal production industry includes some significant global brands, notably Norsk Hydro (Norway) and Alcoa (Iceland) for aluminium; and Outokumpu (Finland and Sweden), SSAB (Sweden), and Sandvik (Sweden) for steel.

Sweden is thus the most significant for steel, and Swedish crude steel production runs at 350,000-400,000 tonnes per month. According to Jernkontoret (**www.jernkontoret.se**), the trade association of the Swedish steel industry, steel to the value of around €5.4 billion is exported to around 140 countries each year. The association's website lists all members, with details of main products. Most of the steel that is actually consumed in Sweden is imported; by contrast, with a production sector which focuses mainly on niche products including stainless and high strength grades, most of the output of finished steel from Sweden is exported.

Steel Net Forum, the annual conference for the international steel industry, is to be held on May 22-23 in Stockholm. The event is organised by the Steel and Metal Wholesalers Association in Sweden and European association Eurometal (**www.eurometal.net**) in co-operation with trade event organiser BraMassor Sverige AB. There are a large number of stockholders throughout Scandinavia. The national associations of steel traders, which are all members of Eurometal, are:

Sweden

Stal- och Metallforeningen (Steel and Metal Wholesalers Association)

Finland

Tekninen Kauppan (Association of Finnish Technical Traders / Steel Stockholders Section)

Norway

Stal og Metallgrossistenes Forening (Steel and Metal Stockholders Association)

Denmark

Stalforeningen – a part of Branchehuset, a collaboration between professional bodies in the Danish steel, plumbing and metal industry.

Outokumpu (**www.outokumpu.com**) based in Estoo (Finland), specialises in stainless steel. It has plants in Finland and Sweden, employs 15,000 people worldwide, and in 2013 the group generated revenue of over €6.7 billion. Until 2000 it was best known for copper-based products. The copper branch was sold in 2005 to Luvata International, also based in Finland. In January 2012 Outokumpu acquired the stainless steel division of German company ThyssenKrupp.

The Avesta works incorporates a melting shop, plus hot and cold rolling mills, and has developed many special stainless steel grades. The biggest production facility is the Tornio Works, which produces hot rolled and cold rolled coils and sheets cut from coil, with an annual output of 1 million tonnes. Following a strategic review in June 2013, thin and precision strip operations are now concentrated in Nyby and Dahlerbruck, (Germany). In 2013, Outokumpu finalised a €100 million investment programme in Degerfors to further enhance the competitiveness of the quarto plate business (products commonly used in the construction, marine, boiler, and pressure vessel industries).

SSAB is the largest manufacturer of strip products in the Nordic countries. A leading producer of high strength alloys, with an annual production capacity for 6 million tonnes of crude steel, it employs 8,700 people worldwide. Sales of niche high strength steels amount to approximately 37% of the total, which was €3.95 billion in 2013. The company has several factories, making a range of products which include heavy plate, hot rolled, cold rolled and coated sheet. In January 2014 it agreed to buy Finnish company Rautaruukki for €1.1 billion. Rautaruukki manufactures and supplies metal-based components and systems for the construction and engineering industries, including cabins and chassis for heavy vehicles, hot rolled steel plates and coils, roofing sheets and building and bridge structures. The move was driven by a prolonged downturn in demand. (SSAB was among the world's top 40 steel producers in 2010 but rival mergers, soaring Chinese demand and a sluggish European market had pushed it out of that group by 2012.)

Sandvik Materials Technology (**www.smt.sandvik.com**), based in Sandviken, is mainly concerned with manufacture of alloy steel tube and bar.

Norsk Hydro (**www.hydro.com**) is the world's fifth largest aluminium producer and employs around 13,000 people. With headquarters in Oslo, it has plants in Rjukan, Raufoss, Vennesla, Karmoy, Hoyanger, Ardal, Sunndalsora, and Holmestrand. Hydro is a worldwide leader in rolled aluminium products, annually supplying around 1 million metric tons of rolled products. In September 2013, Hydro combined its aluminium extrusion operations with those of the Norwegian company Orkla's Sapa, creating a 50/50 joint venture between Hydro and Orkla. The company has many plants outside Norway and in fact the main production centre for flat rolled products is in Grevenbroich, Germany, where a new production line serving mainly the automotive industry will be operational from 2016.

Alcoa, arguably the world's leading aluminium supplier has significant smelting capacity in Iceland, but its rolled products are produced elsewhere in the world.