



## Production management for metals – 03/2009

Dear Sir or Madam,

Enjoy reading the latest news about *PSImetals* projects and orders. We will also answer first questions which have been put to us in conjunction with the recent take-over of AIS (Advanced Information Systems).

### Latest NEWS

[PSI takes over AIS Group: We answer first questions.](#)

### PSI *metals* NEWS

[Successful implementation of \*PSImetals\* in ThyssenKrupp Nirosta's stainless steel mills in Bochum and Krefeld](#)

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### Events

[PSI, AIS and 4Production together at Steel 2009, Germany](#)

[IT in metallurgy, symposium in Moscow, Russia](#)

[Report of the 24th Aachen Steel Colloquium, Germany](#)

Your feedback is welcome at all times. Please feel free to call me (+49 30 2801 1817) or send me an e-mail ([a.poehl@psi-bt.de](mailto:a.poehl@psi-bt.de)). Please have a look at our homepage [www.PSImetals.com](http://www.PSImetals.com) as well!

Yours sincerely

Annett Pöhl

Solution & Product Management

PSI Business Technology for Industries GmbH

## Latest news: Acquisition of AIS

**Sven Busch, CEO of PSI BT GmbH, will answer your questions concerning the acquisition of AIS.**

*What is the legal relationship now between AIS and the PSI Group?*

Advanced Systems Information GmbH & Co. with headquarters in Linz and Leoben and its representation in Brussels are wholly owned subsidiaries of PSI BT GmbH.

*In your letter to customers, you stated that the existing product lines would be continued. Will you offer both production lines on the market in future?*

In order to secure investments made by our customers, AIS and PIS will continue to offer the existing product lines. This acquisition, however, is also a unique opportunity to benefit from the technologies and experience of two leading suppliers, to exchange and further perfect the best. In our effort to exploit synergies and create a stronger, joint production, we will hence merge our products in the long term.

*Is there a time schedule for the migration of the product lines?*

We already started a work council with experts from both companies. We are diligently working on a conceptual design describing the convergence and migration of the product lines. The resulting roadmap will lay out the possibilities for the maintenance of the current solutions and present our customers with options how they can benefit from future enhancements. The details of our product strategy will be carefully considered, with long term vision and emphasis on high quality. We expect to present our finalized plans to our costumers during the coming year.



### **Successful implementation of PSI *metals* in ThyssenKrupp Nirosta's stainless steel mills in Bochum and Krefeld**

PSI BT GmbH has successfully replaced the previous version of PSI *metals* for the heat and caster sequence planning at ThyssenKrupp Nirosta which had been in operation for more than ten years. The cause for the modernisation is the unification of the planning solutions in the stainless steel plants in Germany, the USA and China. In particular, the IT investments for the ThyssenKrupp Stainless production plant to be built in Alabama in the USA are to be assured by the system proven at the German sites of Bochum and Krefeld. The systems have been operating to the customer's complete satisfaction since May.

The scheduling of the daily smelting process at the steel plants is supported by the PSI *metals* functions for advanced line sequencing. Based on the needs of the cold rolling plants, a continuous supply of the steel mill with smelting orders is achieved. PSI *metals* functions such as rescheduling of a heat in case of analysis deviations, the re-feeding following the interruption of a caster sequence or the re-sorting of heats in a sequence or entire sequences in the program allow for quick reactions to short-term directives or disruptions in the steel mill operations. If needed, a simulation mode also secures the current planning status with online changes.

With the modernisation of the existing planning solution to the current version of PSI *metals*, ThyssenKrupp Nirosta would also like to take advantage of the standard functions such as multilingualism and configurability of planning rules. In the future plant-specific adjustments can be operated flexibly by the key users. The user know-how and the experiences gained at the German plants will also simplify the implementation in the American plant.

### **Temperature-controlled planning for energy optimisation in steel plants**

Main focus of the current collaboration between PSI BT and BFI (VDEh-Betriebsforschungsinstitut in Dusseldorf, Germany) is the integration of the BFI temperature model in PSI *metals* to enable temperature-controlled scheduling for steel plants. The energy-optimised facility planning will be done under consideration of available capacity and the heat temperatures required during the production process. The system ensures that the heat is handed over for continuous casting on time and with the right temperature, depending on the aim of optimisation (maximum throughput or minimum energy costs).

The planning process for the steel plants defines a sequential schedule for treating the heats with optimised temperature buffers for all facilities upstream from continuous casting on the basis of target treatment times and target temperatures. Changes in production flow lead to new predictions which are visualised in *PSI metals*. The effect of the ladle on the temperature development will be considered for optimization by the logistic tracking of every single ladle in the steel plant.

Depending on the processing route *PSI metals* enables the scheduler to optimise various targets with regard to quality, cost, time and productivity. *PSI metals* will make recommendations on what can be influenced by the dispatcher. The temperature development in any production stage will be taken into consideration during scheduling. Energy buffers that "feel right" but are in fact too high can be reduced, treatment times cut and the overall energy costs of the treatment process lowered without increasing the risk of production downtimes.

[For more information, please contact us and we will be pleased to send you the article in 'production manager' on this topic.](#)

## News & Events

### Upcoming events

#### **PSI, AIS and 4Production together at Steel 2009, Germany**

Steel Institute VDEh and the German Steel Federation will held their joint Annual Meeting STAHL 2009 on 12 November in the CCD Congress Center Düsseldorf.

"STAHL 2009 – this means informative presentations, interesting discussions and good conversation. Visitors to our annual event can again look forward to a varied programme. The STAHL event will only last one day this year. After the Talks about Steel you will have an opportunity to round out the day sociably with your colleagues and business associates in the restaurant area of the CCD."

We are really looking forward to meeting you at our booth No. P004 in pavilion area. Our metals experts from [PSI, 4Production and AIS](#) are pleased to share their experience with you. To make an appointment please use the following link [www.PSImetals.de/en/stahl2009](http://www.PSImetals.de/en/stahl2009).

#### **4th Symposium: IT in Metallurgy, Moscow, Russia**

As part of the Moscow Metals Week and the Metal-Expo 2009 tradeshow a special conference "IT in Metallurgy: Reducing Costs and Managing Anti-Crisis Projects" will take place on the 12th of November in Moscow, Russia.

"Despite the crisis, the majority of metallurgical enterprises in Russia and CIS continue working on IT projects. The focus, however, has shifted to short-term projects. Burdened by financial problems, most companies in the industry strive to optimize their costs in all areas, and IT is not immune to that. There have been a lot of short-term projects launched where the role of IT is significant. At the same time, long-term ones have been put on hold till better days, and once again IT executives have to address grand objectives: to preserve project teams, properly 'freeze' already launched projects in order to avoid extra costs in the future, correctly present and defend the next year's IT budget."

PSI will be present as exhibitor as well as hold a speech about the role of "IT survival strategy and chance in crisis". You can make an appointment with our experts using the form on our website [www.psimetals.com/en/it-metal-expo](http://www.psimetals.com/en/it-metal-expo).

### **Report of the 24th Aachen Steel Colloquium, Germany**

PSI was an exhibitor at the 24th Aachen Steel Colloquium under the motto "Metallurgy: Raw materials – Materials – Society" on 17 and 18 September. This colloquium, which is jointly hosted by the Institute for Ferrous Metallurgy and the Institute of Forming Technology at RWTH Aachen, serves as a forum for information and discussion for experts from industry and research.

The event provided an excellent setting for discussions between leading representatives from the steel and metallurgy sectors. Our conclusion: PSI will once again be present at the 25th ASK in March 2010.

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