



General Manager of ArcelorMittal, Newcastle, José Gutierrez.

Adiós José!

■ Estella Naicker

This month ArcelorMittal bids 'adiós' to the head honcho of the Newcastle works.

General Manager of ArcelorMittal, Newcastle, José Gutierrez, will take on a two to three year assignment at Long Carbon in Europe as the chief executive officer of the Gijon Plant, from March 1.

Mr Gutierrez's career at ArcelorMittal spans over 23 years.

He obtained his BSc (Hons) degree in 1991 and was then appointed as an engineer to the galvanising lines at Vanderbijlpark South Works.

In 1998, he completed the Executive Advanced Programme with Kellogg University.

Since then, Mr Gutierrez has held various managerial positions within ArcelorMittal, South Africa.

His managerial experience ranges from manager at the Vereeniging Works mills in 1995, Works manager, rolling operations, at the Newcastle Works in 2000 and General Manager at Vereeniging Works in 2006, to his current position as General manager at the Newcastle Works.

"It has been a tough time in Newcastle, especially with the Blast Furnace dustcatcher collapse where we stood still for four months, but I have always enjoyed the challenge and Newcastle Steel remains one of the cheapest steel producers in the world. We also still managed to make a profit in 2011, which is remarkable given the stop.

"I am very pleased with the safety performance. Since we had the four fatalities two months after I arrived in Newcastle in 2009, we had no serious injuries.

We have set new records in lost time injuries and was also the first plant in our worldwide group to be given a level 5 rating in Fatality Prevention Standards," said Mr Gutierrez.

He continued, "It is important to note that I have not left the group and that I will definitely be coming back in two to three years to join the group in South Africa again. I love this country and its people and want to be part of the solution to get us back on track somehow."

Gerald Gadd, from the engineering department, will act as the general manager at the Newcastle works until a formal appointment is made.