

FRANCE

ArcelorMittal withdraws bid

ArcelorMittal has withdrawn its bid for a EU-funded project in environmentally friendly steel, the steel maker said yesterday. France had hoped the project could keep two blast furnaces going at the northern Florange site. The move threatened to unravel a politically charged compromise deal that France's Socialist government reached with ArcelorMittal last week to try and save 630 blast furnace jobs. Luxembourg-based ArcelorMittal said it would not abandon the project but that it could not currently pursue it for technical reasons. – Reuters