Newcastle Works is planning a major reline of its Blast Furnace in May 2014. Newcastle Works only has one Blast Furnace.

Blast Furnace N5 was fully lined in 1993 with a planned campaign life of 12 years (the next full reline to take place during 2005). The 2005 reline was postponed with campaign extension activities to 2008 when only a mini-reline was done. The aimed campaign life for BFN5 after the mini-reline was four years bringing the end of campaign to 2012. The furnace will be repaired and surrounding equipment will be repaired or replaced during the 2014 reline.

A project team under the leadership of William Hand was established more than two years ago to start with the preparation for this reline. This team consisted of fulltime Newcastle Works employees, part time (limited duration) contractors, support from the central project management group of ArcelorMittal South Africa, as well as support from other support functions like HR, Capital Procurement (local and Luxembourg), SHERQ and group experts from the Chief Technology Office (CTO) and Operational Excellence (OE).

The total duration of the reline will be 125 days starting on 5 May 2013. A comprehensive project programme has been developed. This programme allows for the full implementation of all training requirements, permit conditions and Fatality Prevention Standards (FPS).

The total cost for the planned reline is $170 million. Numerous orders have already been placed while a number of negotiations are currently in the final stages before order placement. It is envisaged that around 1000 contractors will be on site during the peak time of the reline.

Additional work planned during the major reline shutdown includes:
- Interim repair of existing Stoves #1, #2 and #3 (budget $5 million – to be approved), a full repair of the stoves is being planned starting 2015.
- Raw Materials Handling and Sinter plant project - $16.7 million (already approved).
- Other projects related to the reline stoppage ($10 million).