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MEDIA RELEASE



ArcelorMittal South Africa launches the production of mainline rail at newly acquired ArcelorMittal Rail and Structure facility in eMalahleni

eMalahleni 20 October 2022: With significant potential to refurbish and increase the rail network in South Africa and on the African continent, ArcelorMittal South Africa is pleased to revive the local mainline rail manufacturing capability at the ArcelorMittal Rail and Structural (AMRAS) Mill, the sole producer of mainline rail in sub-Saharan Africa.

ArcelorMittal South Africa was pleased to welcome the Honourable Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, Mr Ebrahim Patel, and delegates from government and the industry, in a Rail launch ceremony held at its newly acquired AMRAS mill in eMalahleni.

With this acquisition, ArcelorMittal South Africa brings the best-in-class global R&D, knowledge and operating practices of heavy structural rolling mills to South Africa. ArcelorMittal is the global leader in manufacturing heavy structural sections and rails with its plants around the world supplying specialised structural steel products, enabling infrastructure growth and sustainably improving people's lives.

The steel products needed for railway infrastructure development and rolling stock can all be sourced and developed here in South Africa. This can be a significant catalyst for not only the local steel industry but also for the industrialisation and growth of the South African economy.

Since 2017, while operating the heavy structural mill under contract, ArcelorMittal South Africa localised some 80,000 tonnes a year of heavy structural sections, replacing around R1 billion a year of imported steel with local South African production for the past five years.

With the conclusion of this acquisition, ArcelorMittal South Africa will create about 250 quality and well-paid permanent manufacturing sector jobs.

"We are repositioning our company as the backbone of South African manufacturing industry and as the steel partner of choice in sub-Saharan Africa. This is being achieved by forging and maintaining partnerships with stakeholders to strengthen and grow the South African steel industry, as envisaged in the Steel Master Plan," says Kobus Verster, Chief Executive Officer of ArcelorMittal South Africa. "AMRAS offers the opportunity for public-private partnerships to position South Africa as a strategic African provider of rail infrastructure."

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