Small investment brings significant energy and financial savings

ArcelorMittal Saldanha Works in the Western Cape, a steel producer mainly for the export market, was recently praised by donor partners of the Industrial Energy Efficiency Improvement Project (IEE Project) for the significant energy-efficiency improvements that it has achieved through its participation in the project. The plant served as a pilot site for the IEE Project which is managed by the National Cleaner Production Centre of South Africa (NCPC-SA). The NCPC-SA is hosted by the CSIR on behalf of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). The introduction and implementation of interventions to manage and optimise energy usage at this plant required an investment of a mere R500 000, but led to gross financial savings of more than R89.6-million within the first year (2011). By the end of June 2013, the value of energy savings had reached R176-million and it is estimated that the savings realised will account for R362-million by 2016. Examples of interventions include reducing the use of fans and pumps; maintaining the temperature of the water cooling system; preventing the unnecessary use of burners; and reducing the consumption of liquid petroleum gas (LPG).

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