

News & Notes

A LOW-ALLOY STEEL GETS ITS SITE

By Harry Hutchinson

A consortium of businesses with an interest in a low-alloy steel containing vanadium, a product derived from refinery waste, has launched a Web site devoted to the material. The group is promoting high-strength, low-alloy steel containing vanadium, or HSLA-V steel, and they say it is an alternative to traditional low-carbon manganese steel for building bridges, vehicles, offshore platforms, and other structures where weight and strength are both considerations.

The sponsoring group is the Vanadium Technology Partnership, a consortium of vanadium producers and researchers. The organization says the target audience for the site, www.HSLA-V.org, includes users of traditional steel.

The site contains information on the nature of the steel, arguments for using it, and a locator for buying it.

According to the Web site, "Vanadium, when used as an alloy, leads to: ease of use during the steelmaking process, high recovery of alloy additions, good castability, high solubility during reheating, and avoidance of high roll forces." Vanadium usually constitutes less than 0.12 percent of the steel alloy.

The site also contains reports of application studies, including one on the use HSLA-V steel to reduce weight and improve performance of military trailers.

HSLA-V steels "are normally supplied in the as-rolled or as-forged condition, eliminating the need for subsequent heat treatments," the Web site says. Elimination of heat treatment saves on energy costs and also permits lower content of chromium, nickel, and molybdenum, which is the source of the term "low alloy."

The group issued a statement quoting Robert Glodowski, director of technical services at Stratcor, a member company of the Vanadium Technology Partnership. "The new administration has pledged almost \$200 billion dollars to modernize and improve infrastructure as part of the \$787 billion economic stimulus bill," he said. "We believe that HSLA-V steel is well positioned to be a key component of these efforts because of its favorable comparison to traditional steel as well as potential cost benefits."

According to David Lewis, commercial director at Metallurg Vanadium Corp., a member of the Partnership, "The primary source of domestic vanadium is through the recovery of spent catalysts from oil refinery operations."
