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Domestic Vanadium Production a Sustainable Process

-- Spent catalyst recycling produces vanadium steel with less negative impact on the environment than mined vanadium process--

August 31, 2009 – At the recent G-8 Summit in Italy, U.S. President Obama called on the global industrial community to commit to sustainable practices and reiterated his administration’s pledge to drive clean-energy and fight climate change while still growing the U.S. economy.

For military and manufacturing industries that utilize vanadium microalloyed steels such as HSLA-V, or high strength low alloy steel, the use of domestic vanadium offers an environmentally sustainable alternative to mined vanadium products by reducing mining and slagging process emissions, utilizing recycled catalysts and reducing emissions of mining vehicles.

“Based on extensive research, we know that domestic vanadium recycling is a more environmentally sustainable process than primary vanadium production,” said Allan Orr,

Vice President Sales and Marketing, Gulf Chemical & Metallurgical Corporation, a member of the Vanadium Technology Partnership and contributor to the recently launched www.HSLA-V.org. “Our industry believes it’s important to commit to a cleaner, sustainable approach to doing business while still creating jobs and growing our business.”

Unlike standard low C-Mn steels, some of the vanadium used in HSLA-V steel is made from recycled spent catalysts. In fact, over six million pounds of vanadium in North America are recycled from spent catalysts annually. Recovering spent catalysts from oil refining operations and using this byproduct to produce vanadium eliminates or reduces the need for hazardous landfill disposal of these waste products. Vanadium mining results in greater energy consumption and pollution than the recycling process and can be damaging to the environment.

HSLA-V steel also possesses outstanding weldability, ductility, strength and elongation properties and provides an increased strength-to-weight ratio over standard low C-Mn steels. Vanadium, when used as an alloy, helps to improve critical engineering properties compared to the same properties of standard low C-Mn steels, without greatly increasing the cost.

The HSLA-V.org website offers potential users of the product access to case studies of research and applications, appropriate uses of HSLA-V steel, environmental sustainability, and domestic sources of this type of steel. Featured on the website is a product availability search tool that allows visitors to choose a steel producer, product, and size/specification/grade. A results page then displays the company or companies who carry that specific product and ordering information.

About the Vanadium Technology Partnership

The Vanadium Technology Partnership (VTP) is fostering a cooperative relationship in the vanadium microalloyed steel industry. The VTP is comprised of representatives from the Advanced Technology Institute, Bear Metallurgical Company, Gulf Chemical & Metallurgical Corporation, Metallurg Vanadium Corporation, Stratcor, Vanadium Producers & Reclaimers Association, and Vanitec. Carnegie Mellon University, the Colorado School of Mines, Lehigh University, the University of South Carolina, and the University of Washington also contribute to the research process. These teams of

representatives along with key industry members are guiding the program through the stages of investigation and deployment through projects funded by the U.S. Army Research Laboratory and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. HSLA-V.org is hosted by the Vanadium Producers & Reclaimers Association (VPRA). The VPRA focuses on the environment, trade, technology, and health and safety in the vanadium industry.

For more information on HSLA-V, visit www.HSLA-V.org.

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