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Tata Steel wins the battle for Corus



Molten metal being prepared for casting
Photo Copyright: Getty Images

Following a long battle of bids and counterbids the UK Takeover Panel announced that India's Tata Steel had won control of the Anglo-Dutch steelmaker Corus after offering 608 pence per share, valuing Corus at £5.75 bn (\$11.3 bn). The Corus share price was 94 pence in March 2006. Since then bidding by Russian, Brazilian and Indian companies has increased the price dramatically. The final battle was between Tata and Brazilian steelmaker Companhia Siderurgica Nacional (CSN). The takeover will create the world's 5 th largest steel group.

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/6315823.stm>

New gold licences in Scotland



Exploration drilling

Photo Copyright: BGS©NERC

Alba Mineral Resources, a UK-based company, have announced that the Crown Estate Commissioners have issued four exploration licences for gold and silver in Scotland. The areas are in Perthshire at Aberfeldy and the Ochil Hills, Kilmelford in Argyll and Arthrath in Aberdeenshire where Alba is also exploring for nickel. Alba also announced that Companhia Vale do Rio Dolce (CVRD) of Brazil would not be exercising its option (originally exercised by INCO before that company's takeover by CVRD) to continue exploring for nickel on the Arthrath prospect. However, Alba stated that it will continue with an exploration programme, both locally and regionally, to explore the economic potential of the area.

Source: <http://www.albamineralresources.com/>

Brent decommissioning talks begin



North Sea platform

Photo Copyright: BGS©NERC

Preliminary talks on how to decommission the Brent field production facilities and other structures have been initiated by the operator Shell. Located in the North Sea off the Shetlands, Brent was brought on stream in 1975 and still has several years of operational life. However, Shell wants to avoid the controversy associated with the Brent Spar disposal in 1995. It has therefore invited a number of interested agencies and other parties to begin discussions.

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/downloads/start.cfm?id=>

Source: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/north_east/6266807.stm

Underground fatality at coal mine

A contractor was killed by a collapse of ground at UK Coal's Daw Mill Colliery in north Warwickshire on 17 th January. Production in the area affected is expected to be halted for a month as the Health and Safety Executive has called for a systematic review of ground control requirements.

Source: <http://icbirmingham.icnetwork.co.uk/birminghampost/news/>

Approval for Scottish wind farm

A 12 turbine 36 MW wind farm at Toddleburn, 10 km north-west of Lauder in the Scottish Borders, has been granted planning approval. The project is being developed by Scottish and Southern Energy and should be operational by 2009.

Source: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/south_of_scotland/6274733.stm

Proposal for 600 MW wind farm in Scotland



Wind farm in Scotland

Photo Copyright: BGS©NERC

One of the world's largest community wind farms has been proposed for Shetland. The project would be built by Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE), in partnership with the Shetland Islands Council. It will consist of 200 turbines, but is dependent on the construction of a seabed cable linking the scheme to the Scottish mainland. SSE and Viking Energy, the company established to represent the council's interests in wind farm development, will also require planning consent.

Source: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/north_east/6277049.stm

Cornish world heritage mining site gateway

Landscape architects have been appointed to design a park to mark the gateway to the UNESCO world heritage mining site. The park will be constructed next to the Robinson Shaft of South Crofty Mine at Pool, near Camborne. The design will be complete by May but construction of the site will require a successful Lottery funding application.

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/cornwall/6284645.stm>

Tailings dam failure floods village

A tailings lagoon at Glebe Mine, Britain's only fluorspar producer, failed on the 22 January following exceptional rainfall. A slurry of fine mud and water flooded 30 houses in the village of Stoney Middleton, 2 km from the site of the lagoon. Investigations into the cause of the accident are proceeding.

Source: <http://www.glebemines.com/news.htm>

New 'green' power station proposed



Power generation in the UK
Photo Copyright: BGS©NERC

A new 1000 MW gas-fired power station costing £500 million has been proposed for a site near Stockton, on Teesside. The scheme is backed by Teesside-based Thor Corporation, who claim that the station will use less gas than conventional power stations and produce 60% less carbon emissions. If approved, it could be operational by 2009. Project manager with Thor Cogeneration, Paul Verrill, is reported to have said: "This will be a highly efficient operation, using the very latest technology to minimise environmental impact."

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/tees/6285969.stm>

New nuclear waste store proposed for Scotland



Nuclear power station
Source: US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) has submitted a planning application for a £100 million plant for the treatment and storage of intermediate-level nuclear waste at its Dounreay site in Caithness, northern Scotland. The UKAEA said the plant would be required until a national nuclear waste depository is built.

Source: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/highlands_and_islands/6286225.stm

Scotland's major power station shut down

Longannet coal-fired power station in Fife, which produces around 25% of Scotland's electricity, was temporarily shut down due to the collapse of the main conveyor belt during high winds. Scottish Power, who own the 2300 MW station, said that supplies should not be affected.

Source: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/edinburgh_and_east/6285063.stm

Amtek to vacate Bourne aluminium die-casting plant

It has been reported that Amtek Aluminium Castings UK intends to vacate its die-casting site at Bourne in Lincolnshire by June. The group acquired the die-casting business in June 2005 after the previous owner entered administration following the collapse of the Rover car company.

Source: Metal Bulletin 15 January 2007