



Every surface covered at Arcelor Mittal's new steel plant

Arcelor Mittal, the world's largest iron & steel corporation, is set to continue producing steel in Asturias (NW Spain) for at least another four decades, as the latest capital investments at the plants in Avilés and Gijón show. The largest project undertaken by the multinational firm since it first arrived in the region in 1988 involves a €60 million retrofit of the LDIII steel plant.

Hempel coatings were applied at numerous stages throughout this mammoth project. Because the components used in the project were manufactured in different countries (Spain, Italy, Poland, China) and shipped to Spain for assembly on site, Arcelor Mittal required a reputable global supplier who they could trust, such as Hempel. They were seeking not only a paint supplier, but also a partner who would be involved in the project from the outset, ensuring the best designs and solutions for their needs.

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Hempel Spain was mainly involved with coating the parts and components (segments and supporting frames and structure) to be installed inside the cooling chamber, built at AM's subcontractor, SMS, workshops in Tianjin, China and assembled at the Avilés site in Asturias. In collaboration with Arcelor's own team, two main paint schemes were selected. In view of the extreme temperatures and sulphurous vapours which the chamber is exposed to, our experts recommended a system based on 3x150 micron layers of Hempadur 85671, a two-component, amine adduct cured phenolic epoxy ('Novolac') coating that offers excellent adhesion and resistance to high temperatures, water and chemicals. The coating is most commonly employed as an interior lining in tanks and pipelines for hot water, brine, crude oil, as well as for coating potable water tanks and in specific paint systems.

Prior to this, Hempel worked as coating advisors with Arcelor Mittal's Avilés plant in the development of their in-house paint procedures and regulations based on the ISO 12944 standard. Therefore, Hempel designed a second system for steel structures in the project less exposed to such corrosive temperatures and vapours that complies with Arcelor Mittal's 4.01 standard and consists of a primer coat of Hempadur Fast Dry 17410, an intermediate layer of Hempadur Mastic 45880, and finishing with Hemptthane Topcoat 55210.

As part of Hempel's global coverage, our Spanish technicians travelled to China prior to the parts being shipped to Spain, and subsequently have provided on-site support up to final delivery and drawn up a maintenance plan for the paintwork going forward.



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