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Tenova Pyromet's international growth on the rise

Johannesburg, August 3rd 2007 With extensive experience in the design and construction of smelting plants both in South Africa and internationally, Tenova Pyromet has served the industry for over 20 years and remains closely involved in new plant, rebuilds and expansions.

It is this experience that had French company Bus Valera commission Pyromet to rebuild its Number One furnace in July 2006. The project required using Bus Valera's existing transformer but increasing the furnace power by 10 percent.

Designed by Pyromet, the furnace is unusual in that its shell is fitted with copper coolers to provide a freeze lining. The coolers freeze the slag on the inside of the furnace, thereby creating protection for the refractory lining.

Pyromet CEO Paolo Argenta explains that Pyromet's biggest challenge was to fit the new equipment into the existing space once the old furnace had been removed.

Bus Valera required the rebuilt furnace for the treatment of stainless steel dust. Pyromet also designed the furnace roof, the furnace control system and supplied its patented electrode holders.

Pyromet Executive Vice President David Kovarsky adds that the fabrication of the roof for the furnace was undertaken in Tenova's new workshop in China in November 2006. The project is on target, with equipment having been delivered to the appropriate parties in France, notes Kovarsky.

Another highly significant project for Pyromet is a contract with Norwegian-based Elkem. One of Norway's largest industrial companies, as well as a global supplier of aluminium, ferroalloys, silicon metal, carbon, and microsilica, Elkem clients include the foundry, chemicals, aluminium and electronics industries.

Design work began in March 2007, and the project is on track for its European winter delivery.

Pyromet has designed and built a significant number of furnaces of various types and for a variety of applications across five continents, and is one of the world's leading designers and builders of smelting furnaces. Its latest contracts around the globe are proof of the company's longstanding reputation for high quality workmanship and efficient delivery.

Tenova, former Techint Technologies, designs and supplies advanced technologies, products and services for the metal and mining industries. Tenova operates close to its customers through a network of 20 companies based in 14 different countries. For more information visit our website at www.tenovagroup.com.