

China Special Steel Industry Report, 2006-2007

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Abstracts

Nowadays, China is the largest steel producer as well as the largest consumer in the world. However, Chinese steel industrialization is still in its early stage, high value-added products with high technical content are still in short supply. Besides, the quality of steel product is not very high, and the product structure is also unreasonable, as a result, China is merely a large steel manufacturing country instead of a powerful one.

Unlike the common steel, which is mainly used in building, road, bridge and steel structure construction etc, the special steel is mainly applicable for industries of machinery, military, automobile, railway, aviation, petroleum and coal etc, all of which have special requirements for the physical and chemical performance of the steel. And accordingly, the manufacturing process of special steel product is more complicated, and the technical content is higher than that of common steel.

The development of such powerful steel countries as U.S., Russia and Japan etc shows that the demands for special steel will become increasingly strong if the demands for common steel get saturated in a country. And the proportion of special steel products in total steel output represents the whole level of national steel industry. At present, special steel products in the developed countries normally account for 15%-25% of total steel output. For instance, it accounts for 25% in Japan, 20% in U.S. and 18% in Europe. The special steel products in China, however, only shared as low as 8%-10%.

In July 2005, China issued the policy on steel industry, which provided favorable policies for the development of special steel. It was specified that the Chinese government would encourage the large scale special steel enterprises to develop high value-added and high-end products so that the resource advantages can be transferred into the industrial advantages. Guided by the new industrial policies, Chinese special steel enterprises will not only develop towards more professional, but also can achieve further advancement in grouping strategy and scale benefits and moreover, the quality

and deep processing of products will also make a great progress.

According to the statistics of China Special Steel Enterprises Association, the accumulative output of prime special steel amounted to 46.953 million tons in 2005, up by 14.50% over the year of 2004, among which the non-alloy steel output was 23.551 million tons with a year-on-year growth of 16.48%, that of the low alloy steel was 11.599 million tons with 14.28%, the alloy steel output was 10.476 million tons with 9.86% and the stainless steel was 1.237 million tons with 20.45%.

Since the initial integration, China special steel industry has gradually formed four large scale special steel conglomerates: Xingcheng-Xinyegang Group in East & Central South China, Dongbei Special Steel Group in Northeast China, Baosteel Special Steel Group in East China and Xining Special Steel Group in Northwest China.

China special steel industry should comply with the development trend of the international special steel industry, focus on intensive operation, and carry out structural adjustment and reorganization etc, so as to achieve sustainable development in a growing competitive market both at China and abroad.

Contents

1 OVERVIEW OF SPECIAL STEEL INDUSTRY IN 2006

- 1.1 Definition and Classification
 - 1.1.1 Definition
 - 1.1.2 Classification
- 1.2 Characteristics
 - 1.2.1 Operating Performance in 2004
 - 1.2.2 Operating Performance in 2005
 - 1.2.3 Steady Market Development in 2006
- 1.3 Development of Special Steel Industry in 2006
 - 1.3.1 New Adjustment
 - 1.3.2 Roles in National Economy

2 DEVELOPMENT OF STEEL INDUSTRY IN 2006

- 2.1 Operation of China Steel Industry in 2006
 - 2.1.1 Operating Performance in 2006
 - 2.1.2 Production, Sales and Inventory of Moderate-thickness Plate in Feb 2006
 - 2.1.3 Production Capacity of Major Steel Enterprises in 2006
 - 2.1.4 Import and Export in 2006
- 2.3 Price of Steel Market in 2006
- 2.4 Outline of Steel and Related Industries during the 11th Five-year Plan Period (2006-2010)
- 2.5 Forecast of China Steel Output in 2006

3 REVIEW OF CHINA SPECIAL STEEL INDUSTRY IN 2005

- 3.1 Operating Performance in 2004
- 3.2 Operating Performance in 2005
- 3.3 Overall Performance in 2005
- 3.4 Structural Adjustment

4 OVERALL DEVELOPMENT OF SPECIAL STEEL INDUSTRY IN 2006

- 4.1 Market Status
- 4.2 Development Trend

4.3 Prospect

5 SUPPLY & DEMAND AND PROSPECT OF STAINLESS STEEL IN 2006

5.1 Outstanding Performance in International Market in 2006

5.2 Price Trend in 2006

5.3 Chinese Stainless Steel Supply in 2005

5.4 Stainless Steel Market in 2006

5.5 Demand Forecast during the 11th Five-year Plan Period

6 SUPPLY & DEMAND AND PROSPECT OF BEARING STEEL IN CHINA IN 2006

6.1 Market Review

6.2 Market Pattern both at China and Abroad

6.3 Production in 2005

6.4 Market Status in Feb 2006

6.5 Development of Bearing and Bearing Steel Industry during the 11th Five-year Plan Period

7 STATUS QUO AND PROSPECT OF SPRING STEEL IN CHINA IN 2006

7.1 Market Review

7.2 Status Quo of Chinese Spring Manufacturers

7.3 Alloy Spring Steel Production in China

7.4 Market Demand for Alloy Spring Steel in China

8 SUPPLY & DEMAND AND PROSPECT OF TOOL AND DIE STEEL IN CHINA IN 2006

8.1 Overview of China Die Steel in 2006

8.2 China Tool and Die Mould Market, Jan-May 2006

8.3 Technology Orientation of Die Steel in China

8.4 Market Prospect of Tool and Die Steel during the 11th Five-year Plan Period

9 SUPPLY & DEMAND AND PROSPECT OF STRUCTURAL STEEL IN 2006

9.1 Market Status, Jan-May 2006

9.2 Carbon Constructional Steel Market during Jan-May 2006

9.3 Structural Steel Markets in Key Regions during Jan-May 2006

10 SUPPLY & DEMAND AND PROSPECT OF GEAR STEEL IN 2006

11 RESEARCHES ON MAIN DOMESTIC REGIONAL MARKETS IN 2006

- 11.1 Shenyang
- 11.2 Beijing
- 11.3 Hangzhou
- 11.4 Shanghai
- 11.5 Chengdu
- 11.6 Shandong

12 MERGER AND REORGANIZATION OF CHINA SPECIAL STEEL INDUSTRY

- 12.1 Strategic Significance
- 12.2 Merger and Reorganization of Dongbei Special Steel Group
- 12.3 Merger and Reorganization of Pangang and Changgang
- 12.4 Regional Reorganization of Baosteel
- 12.5 CITIC Pacific & Daye Special Steel

13 THREATS FROM FOREIGN CAPITAL IN 2006

- 13.1 Status Quo of Foreign Capital Entry into China Special Steel Industry in 2006
- 13.2 Western Special Steel Industries Seeking Alliance in China
- 13.3 International Competitiveness of China Special Steel Industry

14 COMPOSITIONS OF COST & EXPENSE AND PRICE TREND OF SPECIAL STEEL PRODUCTS

- 14.1 Iron Ore Demand and Price Trend
- 14.2 Market Price of Coking Coal
- 14.3 Market Price of Scrap Steel
- 14.4 Iron Alloy Supply and Price Trend
- 14.5 Policy Influence for Special Steel Enterprises
- 14.6 Influences of Transportation and Power Cost

15 DEVELOPMENTS OF MAJOR SPECIAL STEEL ENTERPRISES IN CHINA

- 15.1 Baosteel Group

- 15.1.1 Operating Results
- 15.1.2 Operating Plans of 2006
- 15.1.3 Factors Influencing Company Development
- 15.1.4 Development Forecast
- 15.2 Jiangyin Xingcheng Special Steel Co., Ltd
 - 15.2.1 Corporate Profile
 - 15.2.2 Bearing Steel Output
 - 15.2.3 Management Strategies in 2006
 - 15.2.4 Development Strategies in 2006
- 15.3 Dongbei Special Steel Group
 - 15.3.1 Corporate Profile
 - 15.3.2 Operating Results
 - 15.3.3 Strategic Goals
 - 15.3.4 Operating Performance of Main Subsidiaries
- 15.4 Laiwu Steel Corporation
 - 15.4.1 Operating Results
 - 15.4.2 Operating Plans in 2006
- 15.5 Sichuan Changcheng Special Steel Co., Ltd
 - 15.5.1 Operating Results
 - 15.5.2 Development Prospect in 2006
- 15.6 Daye Special Steel Co., Ltd
 - 15.6.1 Operating Results
 - 15.6.2 Operating Plans in 2006
 - 15.6.3 Factors Influencing Company Development
 - 15.6.4 Development Forecast
- 15.7 Shanxi Taigang Stainless Steel Co., Ltd
 - 15.7.1 Operating Results
 - 15.7.2 Development Prospect
- 15.8 Xining Special Steel Co., Ltd
 - 15.8.1 Operating Results
 - 15.8.2 Operating Plans in 2006
 - 15.8.3 Factors Influencing Company Development
 - 15.8.4 Development Forecast
- 15.9 Shandong Shiheng Special Steel Co., Ltd
 - 15.9.1 Corporate Profile
 - 15.9.2 Operating Results
- 15.10 China Special Steel Holdings Co., Ltd
 - 15.10.1 Corporate Profile
 - 15.10.2 Business Prospect

16 DEVELOPMENT OF CHINA SPECIAL STEEL INDUSTRY

- 16.1 Life Cycle
- 16.2 Associates with Macroeconomic Cycle
- 16.3 Growth
- 16.4 Maturity
- 16.5 Monopolization

17 INVESTMENT RISKS OF CHINA SPECIAL STEEL INDUSTRY IN 2006

- 17.1 Entry and Exit Barriers
- 17.2 Investment Risks in 2006
- 17.3 Analysis on Over-investment
- 17.4 Influence of RMB Appreciation

Tables

TABLES/FIGURES

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