

The Newsletter for Broner customers, prospective customers, partners and others within the worldwide metals industry

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Nippon Steel & Sumikin Stainless Steel Corporation to implement Broner Production Planner

Nippon Steel & Sumikin Stainless Steel Corporation selected Broner Production Planner to be implemented at its Yawata plant in Japan.

Nippon Steel & Sumikin Stainless Steel Corporation is Japan’s largest producer of stainless steel and will implement the Broner Production Planner module, so that it can become more responsive to customer requirements.

The objectives of the new production planning system are:

- Increase production adherence to the plan
- Change business focus to a ‘due-date’ orientation.

Toshio Fujikawa, Manager & PLANS project Leader, said, “Through the reputation of Broner Production Planner at one of major reference customer in Japan, which indicated a high fit to the steel manufacturing process, we understand the benefit and its rich functionality to cover the most of modeling requirements, and took



advantage of ability to implement the solution confidently, so that we will be able to reduce the development lead time drastically, and at the same time to gain the result quickly.”

The Broner Production Planner optimises and balances the flow of material through the supply chain, taking into account inventories, equipment capacities, production cycles and process restrictions, to create a plan for the short to medium term, that is based on actual and forecast demand. This leads to a more agile and responsive supply chain that improves customer service.

Nippon Steel & Sumikin Stainless Steel (NSSC) is a joint company of Nippon Steel Corporation and Sumitomo Metal Industries, Ltd that was formed in 2003. It is the

largest specialty manufacturer of stainless steel products in Japan with a one third market share. NSSC has three plants, producing 1.1 million tons per year, of cold rolled stainless steel sheets & coils, stainless steel plates & sheets and stainless steel bars & wire rods.

California Steel selects Broner Demand Modeller

California Steel Industries (CSI) will implement Broner Demand Planning solution at its plant in Fontana, California.

Demand Modeller, one of many Advanced Planning and Scheduling modules, available from Broner, will help the plant to im-

prove customer service, planning of slab acquisition and capacity management.

The new Demand Planning solution will provide several business process improvements that will help CSI to manage its

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California Steel selects Broner Demand Modeller

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supply chain:

- Orders will be tracked more accurately against forecasts and will provide early warning if deviations occur.
- The demand forecasting functionality will allow various demand scenarios to be generated based on sales history, collaborative forecasts or other sources.
- The Demand Planning solution is integrated with the current Broner Material and Production Planning tools. This will allow CSI to evaluate the stock coverage of current and confirmed slab inventories against the latest order book together with the trends in various future demand scenarios. This capability will improve decision-making capabilities in order scheduling and in slab acquisition policies.
- The integration of Demand Planning with Production Planning will also improve CSI's tactical planning decisions when balancing capacity planning with order book management.
- New integrated reporting tools will improve CSI's internal collaboration by providing transparency of the current supply/demand status to CSI management and to the Sales, Production Control and Procurement departments.

California Steel use SAP Financials, which

are coupled to the Broner Planning system through files transferred via the mainframe.

The implementation of Demand Modeller commenced in October 2007 and the project is estimated to take 6-8 months to execute.

This new application will complement existing Broner Production Planner, Production Scheduler and Material Planner modules, which California Steel has been successfully using for the last decade.

Manny Lara, Production Planning Manager at California Steel, said, "After a scrutinised analysis of existing supply processes, we realised that we need to introduce additional functionality in order to meet diverse changes arising in the slab supply market. Broner Demand Modeller closely met our requirements because it allows forecast scenarios to be evaluated against slab supply and production capacity."

California Steel Industries is the leading producer of flat-rolled steel in the Western United States, with five different product lines: hot-rolled; cold-rolled and galvanised sheet and electric resistance welded pipe. CSI produces approximately 2 million tons per annum of finished product, from slabs purchased from around the world. CSI is owned by JFE Steel Corporation of Japan and Vale of Brazil.



New Broner partnership in India

Broner has appointed Metsys Engineering and Consultancy as its official sales and marketing partner in India.

Metsys is an engineering and technical consultancy company focused primarily in the area of process automation with highly reputed and experienced professionals with many years experience in catering to the needs of the metals industry.

Specialists from Metsys have worked for companies like Danieli and ABB and imple-



mented projects at steel companies such as Jindal Steel, SAIL and Isibars.

Metsys' main areas of operation are supply and engineering of process automation and electrical systems, which include engineering services with design and process control software, design and development of Level 2 systems and ERP, and consultancy services prior to project initiation.

"Broner solutions are well-known and respected worldwide, and we are honoured to represent Broner in India... ",
T.Raghunath,
Metsys

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New Broner partnership in India

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This new partnership provides a strong combination that will ensure the most effective project implementation, with skilled and experienced local resources from Metsys and proven unique metals industry decision support solutions from Broner.

T.Raghunath, Director of Metsys, said, "Broner solutions are well-known and respected worldwide, and we are honoured to represent Broner in India. We believe that together we offer a compelling proposition

for Indian metals companies, and look forward to a long and prosperous partnership."

David Mushin, Broner's CEO, said: "This is yet another new Broner partnership worldwide, contributing to the steady growth and development of the Broner brand as the foremost solution for improving the business metrics of metals producers."



TISCO goes live with Broner

Taiyuan Iron and Steel Ltd (TISCO) has gone live with Broner Scheduling solution at its plant in TaiYuan city, ShanXi province, China, Broner announced in January.

Taiyuan Iron and Steel Ltd is the number one stainless and carbon steel manufacturer in China, that takes pride in accurate and timely delivery. It will use the Broner Caster Scheduler, Melt Shop Control Centre and Schedule Editor modules to measure and manage its main KPIs, improve visibility of the production process and adherence to plans.

Broner Caster Scheduler performs planning and scheduling of continuous casters and helps maximise productivity of the team responsible for caster and hot mill schedules by creating more accurate schedules, faster.

Broner Melt Shop Control Centre schedules and controls steel production, and is configured to cover a wide range of different process phases from hot metal production, steel-making and secondary metallurgy to casting and ladle management. It will help TISCO to achieve greater production visibility, reduce delivery times and improve the reliability of delivery dates.

The project took 7 months to implement, spanned three casters in the melt shop and involved integration with existing plant's SAP and manufacturing execution systems.

Nie Haifeng, TISCO Project Manager said, "We believe that Broner modules will fulfill the requirements and expectations that were set prior to the implementation, and will help us to maintain and further improve a high level of customer service."

Taiyuan Iron and Steel Ltd is a leading Chinese manufacturer of stainless and carbon steel with annual production capacity of 10 million tons with steel output of 6.26 million tons in 2006. It produces sheets, coils, plates, rods, bars, tubes and pipes.

"We believe that Broner modules will fulfill the requirements and expectations that were set prior to the implementation, and will help us to maintain and further improve a high level of customer service."

Nie Haifeng,
TISCO

Focus on:

Tim Gedrych, MES Director

Tim has 31 years experience covering both consultancy and implementation of production supervisory systems, process control and MES & supply chain automation, together with broad management experience resulting in successful project conclusion.

Tim has worked in roles as Program Manager EMEA, Operations Manager, and spent 4 years as European Support Manager for Aspentech Manufacturing Supply Chain Products.

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Focus on: Tim Gedrych, MES Director

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As a result, Tim has in-depth knowledge of program/project management; budget and time planning, contracts, quality assurance and risk assessment, experience of successfully supervising the work of large teams and ensuring that all contracts are completed to



the client's satisfaction, on time and within budget.

He has particular technical expertise in networks, multi-tiered systems, relational databases, integration technologies and SAP integration, including EAI and web-based products.

Configuration, NOT Custom Development

Broner solutions offer a low risk approach based on standard modules that are configured for each user, without the need for expensive custom development.

Broner Planning and Scheduling modules are designed for user configuration, with a large number of configurable settings, which have been developed over the course of three decades experience. The result is an extremely large range of permutations and combinations that is applicable to all metals plants.

Each module is configured, using user screens, through a combination of rules and data parameters, which are all stored in the database.

For example, the HotMill Scheduler (HS) module has 30 parameterised user-configurable rules; the Production Scheduler (PS) module has 27 parameterised user-configurable rules for scheduling all units in a steel plant from hot and cold rolling, continuous and batch annealing to finishing, inspection and packing; and the Production Planner (PP) module has 33 parameterised user-configurable rules. All rules are switchable, and configurable through a set of parameters. Rules are combined into rule-sets, with each rule being assigned its own weighting by the user.

In addition to the rules, there are standard functions in each module, which can be configured by the user. For instance, in the Production Planner (PP) module, the function "Partition Planning" allows the user to prioritise the work to be planned, and control the planning strategy for each partition (eg. for-

ward or backward planning or both or expediting). The partitions can be defined by any characteristic of the work to be planned, or the due date, or the product. This functionality allows considerable control to the user in how and where work is planned – allowing the user to set priorities for different work, and controlling whether work is planned early or late, if there is a 'gap' in the capacity to be filled, or an overload forcing some work to be planned later.

Many of the functions (such as partition planning) and many of the rules make use of Characteristics. These characteristics are stored in the database in a flexible structure, and can represent any attribute of material or orders – some typically used characteristics would be width, thickness, cross-section, steel grade, and quality code.

All Broner modules integrate with ERP systems, and the majority of our customers use SAP so as a result we have considerable experience of the detailed implementation of an integrated SAP/Broner solution.

Broner solutions offer a low risk approach based on standard modules that are configured for each user, without the need for expensive custom development.



Support desk



Broner customer service department receives hundreds of calls and emails a month with users asking questions on functionality, settings and installation on some of Broner modules.

All answers to the technical- and support-related questions can be found in User Guides on CD that Broner sends out with every new release. Customers who do not have it please contact Broner customer service and we will send you a CD as soon as possible.

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Feedback

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