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Nucor Breaks Ground on Castrip™ Process at Crawfordsville

Charlotte, NC – March 27, 2001 – The first licensee of the Castrip technology for thin strip casting of steel, Nucor Corporation, broke ground on the construction of its “Project C” plant on February 27. The Nucor Castrip facility is adjacent to Nucor’s Crawfordsville, IN thin slab caster plant. Nucor’s Crawfordsville location also is home to an earlier steelmaking breakthrough technology, the first thin slab caster commissioned in the late 1980s.

At a ceremony that included city, county and state officials along with Crawfordsville employees and Australian and Japanese members of the Project C team, Nucor Vice President and General Manager John Ferriola noted that many on hand also were part of the team that brought Nucor’s thin slab technology to full commercial success.

“I have every confidence that our employees, supported by our partners IHI and BHP, once again will successfully deliver a new steelmaking process and a new product to the world,” said Ferriola.

Construction of the plant will proceed over the next eight months, with commissioning beginning in late 2001. Nucor will utilize excess steelmaking capacity from the Crawfordsville Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) shop to supply the Castrip facility’s 500,000-tons/yr throughput. Initial products from the caster will be light-gauge hot rolled steel ranging from 0.03” to 0.08” thick. Nucor expects to use the material as feed for cold rolling as well as for replacement of cold rolled steel in various applications including galvanized decking, painted and galvanized purlins, and steel tubing.

“We believe the Castrip process will create a new product category for steel that cannot be created with any technology except strip casting. Interest from the market has been very high on the product potential from our Castrip line. Customers are extremely excited about buying lighter gauges of hot band for a number of reasons. Of particular interest is the replacement of cold rolled steel where excellent surface quality is not required.” Ferriola noted.

Richard Wechsler, President of Castrip LLC, is pleased with construction progress at Crawfordsville:

“We are extremely confident that John and his team of Nucor, BHP and IHI employees will quickly build and commission their caster. BHP and IHI have proven the technical viability of the process; we could not think of a better partner than Nucor to now prove that the process is truly commercially viable.”

Based in Charlotte, NC, Castrip LLC (www.castrip.com) is a joint venture of Nucor Corporation, BHP of Australia and Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries (IHI) of Japan. The partnership was formed to market and license intellectual property developed jointly by its three owners. Castrip LLC currently has more than 1,500 patents and patents pending related to strip casting.

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Castrip™ is a trademark of Castrip LLC.



John Ferriola and Team, Castrip groundbreaking at Nucor, Crawfordsville, Indiana. February 27, 2001