Bashkortostan Prime Minister Launches New Ecological Equipment at Beloretsk Metallurgical Plant

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BELORETSK, Russia, March 14, 2018 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Mechel PAO (MOEX:MTLR) (NYSE:MTL), one of the leading Russian mining and metals companies, reports that Beloretsk Metallurgical Plant (BMK AO, part of Mechel Group) launched new ecological equipment in its high-strength wire workshop. The upgrade enabled the plant to stop using acid in wire production, bring industrial waste effluents down by eight times and ensure high-level effluent treatment. The Republic of Bashkortostan’s Prime Minister Rustem Mardanov attended the launch ceremony.

The new facilities were launched as Prime Minister Rustem Mardanov, Mechel PAO’s Chief Executive Officer Oleg Korzhov and Beloretsk Metallurgical Plant’s Chief Executive Officer Viktor Kamelin pushed a symbolic button. The Republic of Bashkortostan’s Federal Service for the Supervision of Natural Resources (Rozprirodnadzor) regional chief Yuri Dudnikov and the Beloretsk regional administration’s head Vladislav Mironov also attended the ceremony. After, the delegation toured the workshop’s industrial waste disposal plant where new waste water cleaning equipment was installed.

Beloretsk Metallurgical Plant began implementing the project of rejecting acid pickling in favor of best available technologies in 2015 as part of its agreement with Bashkortostan’s Rosprirodnadzor branch. The plant invested some 200 million rubles into the project. Two new facilities produced by Italy’s Promostar are the project’s final stage.

The new equipment descales steel rod mechanically using scale breakers. During the descaling process, the rod first goes from the unwinding equipment to special rolls that clean off large scales thanks to bending. Small scale is then cleaned off the surface by metal wool. Before, the rod was descaled by acid. The new technology completely excludes several water waste sources formed during acid descaling and the following washing of the rod. Today, the workshop’s waste water volume is down eight times, from 2,400 to 300 cubic meters a day.

Before the new facility’s launch, the workshop has been prepared by shutting down the acid department, reconstructing drawing benches and installing a new water pump intake and a waste water treatment equipment that ensures industrial and stormwater effluents’ compliance with ecological norms.

“This is a major event not only for the plant and the city, but for the entire republic. The plant’s transfer to this new technology not just minimizes, but completely eliminates negative ecological impact on Bashkortostan’s chief water artery, the Belaya River,” Bashkortostan’s Prime Minister Rustem Mardanov noted.

“Mechel Group is consistently implementing the strategy of transferring to best available technologies where ecology is concerned. Beloretsk Metallurgical Plant’s abandonment of acid and implementation of scale breakers is an important step toward this goal. We will continue with the plant’s ecological upgrade by implementing similar technologies in the remaining steel wire workshops. This will enable Beloretsk Metallurgical Plant to rise to a new quality level in ensuring ecological safety,” Mechel PAO’s Chief Executive Officer Oleg Korzhov commented.

The high-strength wire workshop produces components for steel structures and sleepers, spring wire for engineering companies and wire for the construction industry. The workshop accounts for 25% of Beloretsk Metallurgical Plant’s total hardware output.

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