

## **MIIT's Bold 2025 Guidelines: Paving the Future of China's Steel Industry Towards Sustainability & High-Quality Development**

February 13, 2025

*Synopsis: On February 8, 2025, China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology unveiled its updated Normative Conditions for the Steel Industry 2025 guidelines. The 55-page document aims to transform the country's steel industry, focusing on eliminating inefficient production, enhancing environmental sustainability, and promoting technological innovation to meet the challenges of modern global markets.*

## **EU Economic Outlook 2025-2026: Navigating Resilience Amid Global Disruptions**

February 13, 2025

*Synopsis: Despite significant challenges in 2023, including high inflation, geopolitical tensions, and a struggling industrial sector, the EU economy demonstrated remarkable resilience, narrowly avoiding a recession. While GDP growth slowed to +0.5% in 2023, recovery is projected, with a modest +1.2% growth in 2025 and stronger performance in 2026 (+1.5%). However, economic growth continues to be uneven across the EU, with the services sector showing stronger growth compared to the manufacturing sector. Rising energy prices, uncertainty surrounding inflation, and geopolitical instability remain key risks that will shape economic performance in the coming years.*

## **SHFE Unveils Ambitious Plan for High-Quality Development of Steel Futures in China**

February 13, 2025

*Synopsis: The Shanghai Futures Exchange has introduced a comprehensive plan to improve steel futures, aiming to boost market stability and efficiency. The initiative focuses on optimizing delivery systems, warehouse layouts, and regional pricing mechanisms to address challenges in China's steel industry.*

## **Nippon Steel's Strategic US Investment Moves Amid Trump's Steely Negotiations**

February 13, 2025

*Synopsis: Nippon Steel's Vice Chairperson, Takahiro Mori, recently traveled to the US to pave the way for negotiations regarding the company's planned investment in U.S. Steel. This follows President Trump's comments that Nippon Steel would invest heavily in the US company rather than acquire it outright. Despite these changes, concerns persist over potential risks, such as technology leaks, should Nippon Steel fail to secure full ownership.*

## **Trump Proclamation: Adjusting Imports of Aluminum & Derivative Articles**

February 13, 2025

*Synopsis: This presidential proclamation addresses the threat posed by excessive aluminum imports to U.S. national security. It outlines findings from the Secretary of Commerce, the imposition of tariffs, and subsequent adjustments to protect domestic aluminum production. The proclamation increases tariffs to 25% and terminates exemptions for certain countries to mitigate the ongoing crisis caused by global overcapacity and unfair trade practices.*

### **Japan Seeks Exemption from US Tariffs Amid Rising Global Trade Tensions**

*February 13, 2025*

*Synopsis: Japan has formally requested the United States to be exempted from newly imposed steel and aluminum tariffs by President Donald Trump. The tariffs, which are set to start on March 12, 2025, have sparked international backlash, including from Canada, Mexico, and the EU. Japan's previous tariff exemption, under President Joe Biden, is set to end with the new policy.*

### **Mexico's Steel Industry Faces Unprecedented Challenge as US Imposes 25% Tariff**

*February 13, 2025*

*Synopsis: Mexico's steel sector is facing severe challenges after the US imposed a 25% tariff on Mexican steel exports, threatening regional integration and competitiveness. The Mexican Steel Association expressed concern that this move will severely impact 75% of Mexican steel exports, urging the government to adopt defensive trade measures.*

### **EUROFER President Warns of Dire Impact from US Steel Tariffs on European Industry**

*February 13, 2025*

*Synopsis: Dr. Henrik Adam, President of EUROFER, expressed concern over the severe consequences of the new 25% U.S. steel tariff, predicting substantial losses for the European steel industry. With millions of metric tons of exports at risk, he calls for urgent EU action to preserve the industry's future.*

### **US Tariffs Threaten Surge in Steel Imports to Malaysia: MISIF Urges Immediate Government Action**

*February 13, 2025*

*Synopsis: The US's new 25% steel and aluminum tariffs are expected to divert large amounts of steel products to Malaysia, risking harm to the local industry. The Malaysian Iron and Steel Industry Federation calls for swift anti-dumping measures to safeguard domestic manufacturers.*

## **Vietnam's Steel Market Reels Under US Tariff Shock as Trump Imposes New Trade Barriers**

February 13, 2025

*Synopsis: Vietnamese steel companies experienced significant declines in market capitalisation on February 10, 2025, following the announcement of 25% tariffs on steel and 10% tariffs on aluminum by US President Donald Trump. Despite Vietnam not being a top exporter of these metals to the US, investor concerns and heightened trade tensions have created a volatile market environment.*

## **Hyundai Steel's Labor Strife Amid Financial Struggles & Market Pressures**

February 13, 2025

*Synopsis: Hyundai Steel resumed production after a temporary suspension due to a labor strike that hit its key plants on February 11. The strike, demanding wage hikes and improved benefits, comes at a tough time for the company, which is facing declining profits and increased competition. Despite these financial challenges, Hyundai Steel's labor union seeks parity with its parent company Hyundai Motor's workforce.*

## **Crisis Looms: 180 Jobs at Risk as Gateshead Steel Foundry Faces Possible Closure**

February 13, 2025

*Synopsis: Union Electric Steel UK's Gateshead plant, with over 150 years of history, faces closure, jeopardizing 180 jobs. A combination of losses, lack of demand, high energy costs, and other external challenges like Brexit has pushed the company to propose a shutdown. While the closure remains under consultation, the local community and politicians are urging for a reconsideration, fearing the impact on the workforce and the town.*

## **SMS Group Enhances Qinghai Xigang's Competitiveness with Precision Sizing Mill Upgrade**

February 13, 2025

*Synopsis: SMS Group has signed a pivotal contract with Qinghai Xigang New Materials, a subsidiary of Xining Special Steel, for a comprehensive upgrade of the PSM380 Precision Sizing Mill. This upgrade aims to enhance the mill's production efficiency, improve product quality, and strengthen Xigang's competitive position in the special steel market, addressing evolving industry demands in China.*

## **Revolutionizing Scrap Wagon Monitoring: Himmelsbach GmbH's AI-Driven RECOGNITIONPoint Solution**

February 13, 2025

*Synopsis: Himmelsbach GmbH, a leader in automated rail wagon identification, has introduced its cutting-edge RECOGNITIONPoint solution, an AI-powered system that monitors, registers, and inspects scrap wagons automatically. The system improves the efficiency and transparency of steel plants by detecting UIC numbers, identifying scrap types, and weighing wagons during delivery. Used by major companies worldwide, it eliminates manual inspection and makes operations more streamlined.*

### **Heathrow's Steel Commitment: Unite Pushes for Nationwide UK Steel Procurement**

*February 13, 2025*

*Synopsis: Unite has praised Heathrow's commitment to using UK-produced steel in its expansion projects, including the third runway. The union advocates for similar initiatives across all major UK infrastructure projects, emphasizing the need for public procurement rules that prioritize domestic steel to bolster the industry and national security.*

### **Russia-Pakistan Energy and Industrial Synergy: A New Era of Strategic Cooperation**

*February 13, 2025*

*Synopsis: Russian Ambassador Albert P. Khorev has announced new cooperation with Pakistan in 2025, focusing on energy, industrial modernization, and infrastructure projects. This includes the potential revitalization of Pakistan's Steel Mills and energy import agreements, aiming to strengthen bilateral ties and support Pakistan's economic recovery.*

### **Kamet-steel Revolutionizes Billet Production with Cutting-Edge Stop-Casting Technology**

*February 13, 2025*

*Synopsis: Kamet-steel has enhanced its billet production in 2024 with advanced stop-casting technology, improving steel quality and production output. This innovation allows the company to expand its product range, achieve higher chemical precision, and increase production margins. Kamet-steel's efforts will continue with an ambitious investment program to modernize key facilities in 2025.*

### **Origami Solar's Pioneering Automated Steel Frame Line Sets the Stage for US Solar Domination**

*February 13, 2025*

*Synopsis: Origami Solar has launched its first automated steel solar module frame production line in Benton, Arkansas, in collaboration with Priefert Steel and DAC Robotics. This strategic move offers a domestically sourced alternative to imported aluminum frames, providing lower costs, enhanced strength, and a lower carbon*

footprint. It comes at a critical time as new tariffs on imported steel and aluminum threaten supply chains and costs.

### **TenarisSaudiSteelPipes Secures Major SAR 910 Million Contract with Aramco for Carbon Capture Project**

February 13, 2025

*Synopsis: TenarisSaudiSteelPipes has signed a SAR 910 million (\$242.66 million) contract with Aramco to supply LSAW pipes for a carbon capture and storage project in Jubail. The deal will last up to 15 months, with the financial impact expected in 2025-2026.*

### **Salzgitter AG Surpasses EBITDA Expectations for 2024, Sets Ambitious 2025 Outlook**

February 13, 2025

*Synopsis: Salzgitter AG has exceeded its EBITDA expectations for the 2024 financial year despite a decrease in external sales and a pre-tax loss. The company's performance included a strong contribution from its investment in Aurubis AG and strategic restructuring measures. For 2025, Salzgitter projects modest sales and EBITDA growth, alongside a cautious pre-tax outlook.*

### **Mukand Limited Reports Decline in Profit Despite Revenue Growth in Q3 FY 2024-25**

February 13, 2025

*Synopsis: Mukand Limited, a leading manufacturer of alloy and special steel in India, reported a decline in net profit by 23.14% year on year for Q3 FY 2024-25, despite an increase in total revenue by 7.27% year on year.*

### **Construction Sector Grapples with Economic Strain: Rising Costs & Policy Shifts Dampen Recovery"**

February 13, 2025

*Synopsis: The European construction industry continues to face major hurdles, including rising material prices, labor shortages, and the long-term impact of interest rate hikes. While certain segments like civil engineering are showing some resilience, the overall outlook remains bleak as governments contend with fiscal constraints and economic uncertainty.*

### **Automotive Sector Faces Uncertainty: Struggling to Rebound Amid Challenges in 2024**

February 13, 2025

*Synopsis: The automotive sector in the EU faces substantial challenges in 2024, including production downturns, supply chain issues, and evolving consumer demand patterns. Despite some growth in electric vehicle sales, output has been slow to recover, and the future remains uncertain with concerns over economic conditions, demand for new models, and the transition to green mobility.*

### **Mechanical Engineering's Tumultuous Terrain: From Declines to Modest Recovery in 2025-2026**

*February 13, 2025*

*Synopsis: The mechanical engineering sector is facing a period of instability, with output declining for the fourth consecutive quarter in 2024 due to geopolitical tensions, economic uncertainty, and supply chain issues. Despite an earlier recovery post-COVID, the sector is grappling with inflation, energy crises, and global trade disruptions. However, projections suggest a slow recovery beginning in 2025, fueled by automation, green technology investments, and the gradual stabilization of global markets.*

### **Steel Tube Sector: A Struggle for Resilience Amid Geopolitical Strains & Economic Shifts**

*February 13, 2025*

*Synopsis: The steel tube industry faced a third consecutive decline in the third quarter of 2024, marked by a 3.3% drop in output. This decline follows disruptions caused by geopolitical tensions, energy price fluctuations, and post-pandemic economic recovery issues. Although the short-term outlook remains weak, 2025 and 2026 are expected to bring modest growth driven by construction and automotive demand, with a pivot to green energy infrastructure. However, uncertainties surrounding global oil demand and energy supply could continue to challenge the sector's recovery.*

### **Electric Domestic Appliances: Adapting to Economic Headwinds & Technological Advancements in 2024-2026**

*February 13, 2025*

*Synopsis: The electric domestic appliances industry has faced three consecutive quarters of decline in 2024, with a 2.4% decrease in output during Q3, signaling a prolonged downturn that began in mid-2021. Factors such as economic pressure, consumer uncertainty, energy price hikes, and supply chain issues have dampened demand. However, opportunities lie ahead, with a projected recovery beginning in 2025, driven by ongoing remote work trends, smart appliance adoption, and the rise of energy-efficient products. Smart homes and IoT integration are set to reshape the industry, offering long-term growth prospects as technological advances meet evolving consumer needs.*

