

The Dawn of 2025, Part 21: The Complex Web of Tariffs, Sanctions, & Trade Barriers in 2025

Updated on : Jan 30, 2025

Synopsis: Global steel trade is in a state of flux, affected by an ever-evolving network of trade barriers, tariffs, and sanctions. This article explores the far-reaching implications of these barriers in the steel sector, focusing on the impact of geopolitical dynamics, economic protectionism, and shifting international agreements, while also examining how global steel production and consumption patterns are being reshaped in 2025.

Steel Industry Dynamics Between Mexico & the US: A Closer Look at Integration and Tariffs

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Synopsis: Marcelo Ebrard, Mexico's Secretary of Economy, recently critiqued the steel trade strategies between Mexico and the US, highlighting ongoing tariff impositions despite the apparent trade deficit. While US steel exports to Mexico have grown, Mexico's steel exports to the US have decreased, underscoring the inefficiencies in their bilateral integration in the sector.

Sheffield Steelmakers Grapple with Pecuniary Perils Amidst Wage & Pension Quandaries

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Synopsis: Sheffield steelworkers face renewed distress as wages are delayed for the second time, and pension payments remain unpaid for months. Liberty Steel, the parent company, struggles with financial instability, leaving employees uncertain about their future.

Severstal Unveils Plans for Blast Furnace Revamp & New Investments Amid Steel Market Challenges

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Synopsis: Severstal, a prominent Russian steelmaker, plans to upgrade its blast furnace No. 4 at the Cherepovets plant to increase pig iron output. Despite a decline in steel consumption in Russia, Severstal is investing in new projects, including a RUB 116 billion pellet production complex, while preparing for a more challenging market in 2025.

Liberty Ostrava Reignites Hot Strip Mill Production to Bolster Steel Output

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Synopsis: Liberty Ostrava, a Czech steelmaker and subsidiary of Liberty Steel, has resumed operations at its hot strip mill after over a year of downtime. The production of flat products like coils, sheets, and steel strips is being financed through a tolling agreement with Vítkovice Machinery Trade, ensuring continued output until the company's sale.

WH Davis to Produce 16 Advanced Wagons for Celsa Steel UK to Boost Transport Efficiency

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Synopsis: WH Davis, a leader in rail transport solutions, is set to produce 16 specialized wagons for Celsa Steel UK in Cardiff. These wagons will enhance the transportation of steel billets, improving logistics efficiency, reducing costs, and meeting all operational requirements for the steel industry.

K I Metals Celebrates Over 30 Years of Steel Excellence in Infrastructure & Construction

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Synopsis: K I Metals, a renowned UK-based leader in the steel and construction industries, celebrates over 30 years of providing exceptional steel products and services. With a legacy of quality, innovation, and customer satisfaction, the company has become a cornerstone of the UK's construction and infrastructure sectors.

Thailand Launches Sunset Review of Antidumping Duties on Cold Rolled Sheet Imports

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Synopsis: Thailand's Department of Foreign Trade has started a sunset review process to assess whether to extend or remove antidumping duties on cold-rolled sheets imported from China, Vietnam, and Taiwan. These duties, initially set in January 2020, were designed to protect the domestic steel industry, but the DFT will now evaluate whether lifting them could harm local producers.

Chinese Automakers Challenge EU BEV Tariffs in Legal Battle Over Trade Dispute

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Synopsis: Chinese automakers BYD, Geely, and SAIC have filed lawsuits against the European Commission at the General Court of the European Union over newly imposed countervailing tariffs on China-made battery electric vehicles. The automakers argue that the tariffs, which were implemented following an anti-subsidy investigation, are unfair and harm both trade relations and the affordability of electric vehicles.

Nucor's Resilient Performance Amid Softening Markets: A Robust Financial Year-End for 2024

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Synopsis: Nucor Corporation has reported its financial results for the fourth quarter and full year of 2024, showing a decline in net earnings and sales due to softened steel demand, but with strong financial health and strategic growth investments. Despite lower prices and volumes, the company remains optimistic about 2025, backed by solid cash reserves and its ongoing capital return initiatives.

SSAB's 2024 Year-End Financial Performance: Resilient Premium Products Amid Market Slumps

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Synopsis: SSAB's year-end report for 2024 highlights the challenges faced due to weak markets in Europe and North America but shows the resilience of its premium steel products. Despite a significant drop in operating results, SSAB's strategic investments in transformation projects and focus on high-strength steel helped maintain cash flow and improve safety metrics. A dividend proposal for shareholders has been made as part of the financial year close.

MMK Group Reports 2024 Operational Results: Impact of Repairs & Slower Market Demand

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Synopsis: MMK Group, a leading Russian steelmaker, has released its operational results for the fourth quarter and full year of 2024. The company experienced a decline in steel output and sales, primarily due to major repairs at its blast furnaces, weaker market demand, and seasonal factors.

Vale's Operational Resilience & Strategic Shifts: Iron Ore, Copper, & Nickel Milestones in 2024

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Synopsis: Vale's performance in 2024 saw significant operational stability, with record iron ore production and key project milestones in copper and nickel. The company's iron ore output reached 328 million metric tons, exceeding expectations, while copper and nickel projects achieved significant progress. Despite production changes, Vale remains focused on high-margin products and portfolio optimization to stay competitive in the evolving market.

Anglo American Completes A\$1.6 Billion Sale of Stake in Jellinbah Group to Zashvin

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Synopsis: Anglo American has finalized the sale of its 33.3% minority interest in the Jellinbah Group, a key player in Australia's steelmaking coal industry, to Zashvin Pty Ltd for A\$1.6 billion. The transaction strengthens Anglo American's balance sheet and marks

the first step in divesting its steelmaking coal portfolio, with further sales planned for the future.

Almonty Secures Landmark Offtake Agreement with SeAH Group for Sangdong Molybdenum Project

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Synopsis: Almonty Industries has entered into an exclusive offtake agreement with SeAH M&S, South Korea's leading molybdenum processor, to supply SeAH with all molybdenum production from its Sangdong Molybdenum Project. The agreement ensures long-term financial stability and supports the domestic supply chain by reducing South Korea's reliance on imported molybdenum.

Advanced Pyrazole Derivatives for Enhanced Corrosion Inhibition on Carbon Steel in Acidic Medium

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Synopsis: This study explores the corrosion inhibition effects of two newly synthesized pyrazole derivatives, Tetra-Pz-Ortho and Tetra-Pz-Para, on carbon steel in a 1 M hydrochloric acid environment. Using a range of experimental and computational techniques, the results highlight the significant effectiveness of both compounds in reducing steel degradation, with Tetra-Pz-Ortho showing superior performance.