

Ferrous



Reasons to be cheerful but also concerned

It was underlined at the BIR ferrous division meeting in Dubai that a sustained improvement in the steel scrap industry depended upon a 'healthy and buoyant' steelmaking sector. In this context, a leading steel industry representative was prepared to envision a 'healthy' future but regarded hopes of 'buoyancy' as perhaps a step too far.

Although a number of market reporters were lamenting a general lack of scrap, the World Steel Association's director general Dr Edwin Basson injected a large measure of cheer into the latest meeting of the BIR ferrous division.

The guest speaker in Dubai coupled a prediction that global demand for ferrous scrap for steelmaking would increase by around 110 million tonnes between 2014 and 2019 with an assertion that the electric arc furnace share

of global steel production would climb from 27% to 30% over the same period. Scrap demand growth would be driven by China and Turkey, as well as by the ASEAN and NAFTA regions, he added.

As regards global demand for finished steel, Basson forecast a surge of around

25% from 1.537 billion tonnes last year to 2.101 billion tonnes by the year 2040, adding that 'close to half will be produced using scrap'. He also envisaged that global scrap availability would climb from around 700 million tonnes at present to hit 1 billion tonnes in the late 2020s.



William Schmiedel:
China remains major factor.



Edwin Basson: global scrap
availability to climb.

ing status for China and South Korea. BIR ferrous division president William Schmiedel of Sims Metal Management Global Trade Corporation in the USA emphasised that China remained a major factor in the marketplace. 'The key number to watch is the amount of Chinese exports of finished and semi-finished steel which, while radically decreasing in February and March, bounced back to over 8.5 million tons in April, which is a 15% increase over March.' Chinese exports in April exceeded total US production, he pointed out. Returning to the issue of transfrontier scrap shipments, the meeting learned that the Ukrainian government was attempting to make the distribution of scrap export quotas 'more transparent' but that this was 'a slow process'. □

The BIR ferrous division meeting in Dubai saw the launch of the 6th edition of its 'World Steel Recycling in Figures' statistical brochure, further details of which can be found in the ferrous market report of this issue of Recycling International.

Shredder operators must plan for 'batteries in everything'

The growing use of electronics in almost every conceivable walk of life is increasing the fire risk for shredder operators. However, the problem can be minimised through good management, it was emphasised to the BIR shredder committee meeting in Dubai by George Adams of SA Recycling in the USA.

Operators were confronted with the challenge of 'batteries in everything', he told delegates, with those containing lithium posing a particular problem because exposure of the metal would generally lead to a fire. Given that fires in large piles of scrap were particularly difficult to bring under control, he urged operators to 'shred every day' or to create smaller piles separated according to product type. Any pile comprising more than 250

tonnes of feed material could prove difficult to pull apart in the event of a fire, he pointed out.

The meeting also saw the launch of a BIR brochure entitled 'Benefits of using shredded ferrous scrap in steel mills and foundries' which outlines the economic, operational and environmental benefits of shredded over other scrap types, including: a reduction in CO₂ emissions and in slag production; shorter melting times; and faster loading for inland water and deep-sea transportation.

It was also confirmed in Dubai that a significant number of shredders in

Europe and the USA had been mothballed in recent months. Lack of volume was given as a key reason for closures in the USA - 'especially if a company has two shredders in the same geographical area'.



George Adams