



Matalco producing aluminum billet at new Ohio plant

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Canada's Matalco Inc. is producing aluminum billet at its new \$100 million Lordstown remelt and casting plant in Ohio and has sold out its projected output of approximately 90 million lb for 2016, a company official said Friday.

The billet has been sold "primarily to the building and construction market as well as automotive," Robert Roscetti, the company's vice president at Lordstown, said in an email. Production, which had been targeted for April, began recently at the 225,000-square-foot facility in northeast Ohio.

"Production is moving along very well and as per plan, with excellent product quality levels being achieved," he added.

Another Matalco official, John Pereira, vice president of operations for the Brampton, Ontario-based subsidiary of Giampaolo Group, agreed.

"Even though I notice a bit [of] softness in the market, we are still strong in sales," he said in an email Friday.

Pereira said the new plant is scheduled to ramp up production to 350 million lb annually, its full capacity, by 2018.

Combined with Matalco's existing Brampton and Canton, Ohio, facilities, Lordstown gives the company the capacity to produce in excess of 700 million lb of billet annually.

The officials said Lordstown is turning out various series, high-quality aluminum billet, but did not elaborate.

Matalco selected the Lordstown location in Trumbull County in July 2014 following a lengthy site selection process that included a number of potential areas in Michigan, Indiana and Pennsylvania, as well as Ohio.

The company broke ground in Lordstown on September 17, 2014.

Matalco considers itself North America's largest independent remelt facility and producer of high-quality 6000 series aluminum billet for the aluminum extrusion and forging manufacturing industries and is an affiliate of Triple M Metal LP, Canada's largest processor of recycled metal. Matalco has said the strategic relationship ensures it is provided with a stable and ready supply of scrap aluminum.

The company was founded in 2005.

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