Sheltered Workshops Have Obtained 37 thousand crowns from Steelmen for the Products Made by the Workshops’ Clients

Ostrava, March 29, 2010 – The products made by the clients of four sheltered workshops situated in Ostrava and adjacent areas that were offered at the Easter market in the premises of ArcelorMittal Ostrava earned a considerable amount of 37 thousand crowns. “It is yet another way of our support to non-profit organizations. By buying their products, our employees have supported the activities of the clients of sheltered workshops,” explains Monika Pěnčíková, Head of Corporate Responsibility.

The stalls of sheltered workshops were available at two places in the company premises for two days. Hundreds of steelmen who visited the market were able not only to procure unusual presents, but also to help the sheltered workshops obtain necessary funds for their activities. “We appreciate that our employees take part in charitable activities with such great enthusiasm. For example, two thousand of them took part in volunteering last year and many of them even directly cooperate with non-profit organizations,” Pěnčíková points out.

“We are happy to have been able to make use of the offer of ArcelorMittal Ostrava. For us, a simple rule applies – the more products we sell, the more work it means for our employees,” says Pavel Folta, director of St. Alexander Charity. According to him, they were able to sell more products at the steelmaker’s than during similar events held downtown. The means obtained are used for the running of the workshops and for the salaries of the Charity employees. “Most of our clients are handicapped, some right from their birth and others as a result of an injury. For many of them, sheltered workshops are the only place to get a job,” explains Folta.

Last year, more than two thousand employees of ArcelorMittal Ostrava took part in the projects to support non-profit organizations. They helped during floods, joined various volunteering activities throughout the year, and contributed to a number of collections for the non-profit sector. “We had a very positive response to the help to non-profit organizations in the previous years and that is why we have organized projects for their support this year as well,” concludes Pěnčíková.

The sheltered workshops that sold their clients’ products at the Easter market at ArcelorMittal Ostrava and ArcelorMittal Tubular Products Ostrava:

St. Alexander Charity is a humanitarian organization whose mission is to help those who are in emergency situations due to social, health or other reasons. It runs four sheltered workshops and employs 65 people with multiple defects. The employees make furniture, pottery, working clothes, bed linen and toys as well as process plastic waste and discarded electrical appliances.
St. Joseph Sheltered Workshops has employed the handicapped since 1996. Employment with a due employment contract is available for the physically and sensorially handicapped as well as for people with combined handicaps, who need continuous training, patient mental support, and working and social assistance. St. Joseph Sheltered Workshops offers jobs in sowing, ceramic and finishing workshops.

Hrabyně Charity is a non-profit organization whose mission is to help people whose living conditions are severely aggravated by their health. The objective is to create a suitable environment for employing the handicapped. The clients of the workshops provide graphic and printing services, make advertising posters and billboards as well as printing on various articles including fabrics, and produce stickers.

Chestnut Shop of Small and Big Pleasures – sheltered workshop founded in December 2004. It produces unusual cardboard packaging. Today the workshop employs 8 people with diminished capacity to work.

ArcelorMittal Ostrava a.s. is the biggest steelmaker in the Czech Republic and part of the world’s largest steel group ArcelorMittal. Its yearly capacity is 3 million tonnes of steel. It exports approximately 50 per cent of its output to more than 80 countries all over the world. The Company has 5,950 employees; the total number of employees including the subsidiaries is more than 9,300. Its majority shareholder is ArcelorMittal Holdings A. G. (96.429 %). In the fiscal year of 2008 (April 1, 2008 – December 31, 2008), the Company generated a consolidated profit (after taxation) of CZK 6.077 billion. With its revenues of CZK 50.5 billion ArcelorMittal Ostrava is one of the biggest tax payers in the Czech Republic.