ArcelorMittal Ostrava establishes the position of Chief Safety Officer

Ostrava, October 5, 2008 - In line with the effort to further increase safety of workers in the Company, Chairman of the ArcelorMittal Ostrava’s Board of Directors Sanjay Samaddar has decided to establish the position of Chief Safety Officer in the Company’s organization structure. He appointed Jiří Michálek, the current Transport Plant Director, to the position with effect from 1st October 2008. In his new position, Jiří Michálek will report directly to the Chief Executive Officer. “This means that the Chief Safety Officer is a position on a par with Chief Finance Officer or Chief Operations Officer,” explains Sanjay Samaddar.

At the annual Leadership Conference in September, ArcelorMittal launched a new global safety initiative “Journey to Zero” aimed at reducing the occurrence of accidents to zero. “The Journey to Zero initiative is an ambitious programme given the industry we operate in. It is clear that the champion of such an initiative must be a strong person equipped with extraordinary powers and enjoying unshaken support from the CEO. With this organizational change, all these conditions are being met and I expect rapid development in safety in this Company,” adds Sanjay Samaddar.

The establishing of the position of Chief Safety Officer has similar background to the position of Chief Green Officer set up three months ago. Both safety and the environment are top priorities for ArcelorMittal. And in both the cases we are among the very first companies in the Czech Republic where these priorities are being reflected in the organizational structure,” says Sanjay Samaddar.

“Although the position of head of safety is not uncommon in the Czech industry, these managers only rarely report directly to the CEO. And if so, the position usually relates to security rather than safety. I have never seen safety be put so high in an organizational structure,” says Stanislav Malý, Director of the Labour Protection Research Institute.

“I am delighted to accept the big opportunity. I consider the Journey to Zero initiative bold indeed and I am happy that I have been chosen to lead it at Ostrava,” said Jiří Michálek after his appointment. “I will do my best to ensure that the fastest path towards our ultimate goal is taken,” added the new CSO.

Jiří Michálek (aged 37) graduated from the Technical University of Ostrava in the Mechanical Engineering field of study. He holds an MBA degree from CMC - De Paul University Chicago. He joined ArcelorMittal Ostrava in 1996. His last position was Transport Plant Director. Before that he had worked as a director of Plant 14 – the Rolling Mill, an executive assistant to the CEO and an investment project engineer. Jiří Michálek is married and has two children.
ArcelorMittal Ostrava a.s. is the largest steel company in the Czech Republic and a part of the world's leading steel company ArcelorMittal. It produces more than 3 million tonnes of steel annually and exports approximately 60 per cent of its output to more than 80 countries all over the world. The Company has 7,450 employees; the total number of employees including the subsidiaries is 10,300. Its major shareholders are MITTAL STEEL HOLDINGS A. G. (71.579 %), Havrton Investment Ltd. (13.881 %) and the Ministry of Finance (10.969 %). In the fiscal year of 2007 (which ended on February 28, 2008), the Company generated a consolidated profit (after taxation) of CZK 9.2 billion. With total revenues of CZK 57.7 billion, ArcelorMittal Ostrava is one of the biggest tax payers in the Czech Republic.