
London, February 13, 2025

Primetals Technologies Receives FAC for Revamp of ASONEXT's AOD Converter Shop

- **Upgraded AOD converter installed on schedule**
- **ASONEXT to benefit from productivity improvements and increased equipment lifetime**

On January 18, 2025, Primetals Technologies received the final acceptance certificate (FAC) from special stainless steel producer ASONEXT for the revamp of its 40-ton argon-oxygen decarburization (AOD) converter shop at the Italian manufacturer's facilities in Brescia. Primetals Technologies was responsible for the engineering, supply of mechanical equipment – including two vessels and a trunnion ring – as well as supervision of construction work and implementation.

A Close Collaboration

The project was characterized by close and effective collaboration between the partners, resulting in completion on schedule.

“We are targeting the supply of special stainless steel grades and alloys for highly demanding applications, which requires a specific production process with the AOD converter. Thanks to this converter upgrade, we will be able to meet current and future market demands. Additionally, we target a production increase over the mid- to long-term,” says Federico Curreli, Chief Operating Officer at ASONEXT.

Increased Vessel Volume

As part of the project, Primetals Technologies designed a new vessel geometry, allowing for a 30 percent increase in inner volume. This improvement enhances vessel lining performance and increases the reaction volume. Additionally, the new reinforced top cone extends equipment lifetime and streamlines maintenance for service staff. In the first quarter of 2025, Primetals Technologies will also provide metallurgical consulting services to further improve the production process of the newly implemented converter.

A Leading AOD Supplier

Primetals Technologies is a leading provider of AOD equipment and has supplied the majority of the world's AOD plants. The company previously conducted a comprehensive study for ASONEXT, analyzing the former AOD process and providing key recommendations for production improvements. The AOD converter revamp is part of the actions suggested in this study.

Thanks to this revamp, ASONEXT will be able to produce 50,000 tons of special stainless steel annually. Established in 1971, the Italian producer serves several markets, including the aerospace, shipbuilding, and petrochemical industries.



The AOD upgrade from Primetals Technologies will support ASONEXT in achieving its targets of producing special stainless steel grades for demanding applications.



Part of the project team commemorating the first heat at ASONEXT's revamped AOD converter. From left to right: Amedeo Matera, site manager at the construction partner Morello, Federico Curreli, COO at ASONEXT, and Andreas Geiblinger, site manager at Primetals Technologies.

This **press release** and a **royalty-free picture** are available at [primetals.com/press](https://www.primetals.com/press)

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