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Contact:

For More Information

Leigh Perry-Herndon, 431-8645 or

[lherndon@mobilechamber.c](mailto:lherndon@mobilechamber.com)

SSAB Selects Mobile for Niche Steel Investments

SSAB today announced it has selected Mobile as the site for a new state-of-the-art heat treating facility. The investment will increase the existing facility from 100,000 to 400,000 metric tons and bring approximately 180 new jobs to the facility with a \$460 million capital impact. Construction is expected to begin in 2009, and will be complete by 2011.

“This project demonstrates SSAB’s confidence in Mobile, our workforce and infrastructure,” said **Herman Tinsley**, senior project manager for the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, who led the project at the local level. “These are high-paying jobs that will have a tremendous long-term impact on our economy.”

In April 2008, SSAB announced it would increase its steel plate heat treating capacity in the United States. After an extensive review, Mobile was selected as the site for the new heat treating facility and other improvements. SSAB’s Mobile site is formerly known as IPSCO (Steel) Alabama Inc. IPSCO opened its facility in north Mobile County in 1999, and currently employs approximately 400 full-time workers.

“This reaffirms SSAB’s focus on our value added quenched and tempered steel and our commitment to meet customers’ growing demand for such products. SSAB will further develop its strong production base in the United States, both in Mobile and Montpelier, and we will continue to strengthen our strategy to be the global leader in high strength steel,” says **Olof Faxander**, CEO of SSAB.

Partners in this recruiting effort included the **Alabama Development Office, Alabama Industrial Development Training, Alabama Power Co. Alabama State Port Authority, City of Mobile, Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce and Mobile County.**

“This is great news for Mobile County, and the entire region. This furthers our goal of adding high-tech, high-paying jobs for area residents; and proves yet-again the strength of our teamed approach to economic development,” said **Stephen Nodine**, president of the Mobile County Commission.

"We're elated to see the continued growth of SSAB in our city with the \$460 million expansion," Mobile Mayor **Sam Jones** said. "SSAB has been a great corporate partner for the city and the area by providing employment opportunities and creating a substantial economic impact for the region. Their commitment to the city and our community is admirable and will further our quest to create good jobs for our citizens."

“This is another great opportunity for Mobile County,” said Mobile County Commissioner **Mike Dean**. “We will continue to work with our partners to keep the economy growing.”

“This investment develops our market position in quenched and tempered steel. In addition, we would like to thank the many State officials, local officials and other stakeholders, in both Iowa and Alabama, who worked to support this investment,” said **David Britten**, president of SSAB, North American Division.

The heat treatment facility will produce quenched and tempered steel plate which is used throughout the manufacturing and construction sectors in applications where properties such as strength, hardness and toughness are required beyond those available in commercial grades.

For further information on SSAB, please visit the company’s website at: www.ssab.com