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Kazakhstan's titanium production down in 2014-2015

LONDON (Metal-Pages) 23-Feb-15. Kazakhstan's Ust-Kamenogorsk Titanium Magnesium plant expects to maintain titanium sponge production at around 9,000t/yr in 2015, level with its output last year, the company told Metal-Pages.

Output of 9,000t in 2014 was a planned cutback from 12,000t in 2013 when production was also reduced in light of historic overstocking and ongoing inventory reduction in the titanium sponge market. This compared with the plant's annual capacity of 26,000t – and output averaging around 22,000t/yr in the preceding years. UKTMP does not disclose its output for titanium ingot.

According to Kazakhstan's customs statistics, the country exported 2,895t of titanium sponge to the customs value of \$22,904,400 (averaging \$7.91/kg), which included including 420t of lumpy titanium sponge min 99.56pc Ti at customs value averaging \$11.51/kg. This is down 70.6pc compared with exports of 9,860t of sponge in total in 2013.

Of sponge exports, 15t of min 99.6pc high-grade titanium sponge and 1,100t of other grade material worth was shipped to the US during the year and another 960t of other grade sponge was exported to South Korea. Another 390t and 15t of high-grade titanium sponge went, respectively, to India and the Netherlands.

Kazakhstan: Primary titanium exports 2014 (metric tonnes)

Product	Destination	Tonnes
Titanium sponge min 99.56%Ti, 12+2x70+12mm lump	Total	420
	India	390
	Netherlands	15
	USA	15
Other titanium sponge	Total	2,475
	South Korea	960
	Netherlands	405
	USA	1,110
Titanium ingot	Total (Netherlands)	3,854.8

Kazakhstan's exports of titanium ingot totalled 3854.8t in 2014, down 22.4pc from 4,969t in 2013. All ingot shipments in 2014 were destined for the Netherlands, Europe's trading hub, as were all of the 47.4t of Kazakshstan's titanium scrap exports during the year.

Meanwhile Kazakhstan imported 42.8t of titanium products in the rod and wire category and 38.8t of titanium flat rolled products from China in 2014. Other titanium imports included 9.6t of non-aerospace titanium pipes from the UK and 800t in total of other fabricated titanium products from Germany, Canada, China and the US.

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