

Almatis opens Qingdao tabular alumina plant

Almatis GmbH, the Frankfurt based speciality alumina producer, formally opened the second phase expansion of its Huangdao speciality alumina plant, in Qingdao on 16 June.

Phase 2 of Almatis' Qingdao facility comprised the completion of an \$18m. fully integrated tabular alumina plant over 15 months. Total plant production has now increased to 90,000 tpa of calcined and tabular aluminas.

This latest expansion has installed two shaft kilns for tabular alumina sintering, and has doubled the existing crushing and screening capacity.

Almatis (then as Alcoa) first established an alumina processing plant at Huangdao in 1998, followed in 2002, with the founding of Qingdao Alumina Trading Co.

D. Oscar Groomes, CEO Almatis opened the plant



along with Wu Tien Jun, General Director of Qingdao Bureau of Foreign Trade & Economic Cooperation, and Jiang Jie, Director of Administrative Committee of Qingdao Economic & Technological Development Zone. Groomes said: "Within the last three years alone we have more than quadrupled the output of the plant and with the start-up of the expanded plant the output will be tenfold compared to 2002. This is truly a

remarkable development."

The new plant will enable Almatis to supply the tabular alumina market within China and South East Asia. However, further plant expansions are in the pipeline. "With this first expansion of the Huangdao facility we are supplying the increased demand for tabular alumina. Since we also see demand increase for calcined

