



## Almatis invests \$6m. into Ludwigshafen alumina line

22 July 2011

### Demand for synthetic sintered-alumina aggregates boosted by steel refractories

Leading speciality alumina producer Almatis Group has invested \$6m. into a new crushing and sizing line at its Ludwigshafen plant which will increase production capacity to 75,000 tpa of alumina and spinel grades.

The new production line, which will run parallel to the existing line, has been installed to handle a wider variety of speciality alumina aggregates through new sizing, crushing and packing equipment.

“This flexibility leads to an improved efficiency within manufacturing and enables us to develop new innovative products,” Gabriele Drees, Almatis’ communications manager, told **IM**.

“Cross contamination when using different compositions will be eliminated so the stringent quality requirements for the products are guaranteed,” she added.

The investment at Ludwigshafen is in response to increased demand for synthetic sintered alumina-based aggregates, which increasingly are replacing traditional steel refractory minerals such as white and brown fused alumina, Almatis said.

“Additional growth anticipated over the next three years is in the range of 4-5% in the advanced regions and in the range of 7-10% in BRIC countries,” Drees told **IM**.

The new line will handle all alumina-based speciality products, including spinel (AR 78/ AR90 / MR 66), bonite, standard product tabular T 60, and the new BSA 96 grade.

*For a review of the spinel market see upcoming IM August 2011 issue.*