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Alstom acquires coating services company in the United States

Alstom Power Inc. acquired the business and facilities of Amstar Surface Technology Ltd. and Amstar International Ltd., headquartered in Houston, Texas. Amstar specializes in thermal spray coatings that protect surfaces against corrosion, erosion and wear. The company had sales of approximately 11 million USD in 2009 and employs around 50 people. This acquisition strengthens Alstom's service offerings with advanced technologies that improve power plant component life.

Tim Curran, head of Alstom Power in the United States, said, "*This acquisition strengthens Alstom's position as a leader in servicing the power generation market. Amstar's patented materials and proprietary spray technology are amongst the most advanced technologies in the thermal spray market. These advances will allow us to improve the life cycle performance of power plants and enhance our leadership position in applied surface technologies.*"

The service market for installed power generation equipment continues to grow as power plant customers increasingly seek to optimize the efficiency and reduce emissions on their existing units. Amstar's advanced surface technologies will play a vital role in helping our customers cost-effectively achieve better plant performance. Applications include boiler parts such as tubes, water walls, super heater or reheater sections, economizers and transition zones, as well as other applications.

Alstom has 6,500 employees in the United States and is investing in several new facilities – including a factory in Chattanooga, Tennessee – that will create hundreds more skilled jobs. The company provides or is actively developing a portfolio of low-carbon technologies in the power sector, including nuclear, solar, hydro, wind, coal and natural gas with carbon capture.

About Alstom

Alstom is a global leader in the world of power generation and rail infrastructure and sets the benchmark for innovative and environmentally friendly technologies. Alstom builds the fastest train and the highest capacity automated metro in the world, and provides turnkey integrated power plant solutions and associated services for a wide variety of energy sources, including hydro, nuclear, gas, coal and wind. The Group employs 76,500 people in 70 countries, and had sales of €19.7 billion in 2009/10.

About Amstar

AmStar Surface Technology specializes in the application of high velocity continuous combustion (HVCC) thermal spray coatings. HVCC coating applications prevent wear and corrosion of plant process equipment and components. The facility in Houston, Texas, was completed in 2007, complimenting field services and providing capacity for larger shop applications. www.amstar-usa.com

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