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## Alcan to invest \$27M in Ravenswood plant

By CHRISTINA BRIGHT  
Staff Writer

RAVENSWOOD — Alcan Rolled Products, formerly Pechiney, announced Tuesday in a press conference with Gov. Joe Manchin it will invest \$27 million to increase the site's plate capacity.

Michel Jacques, president and CEO of Alcan Engineered Products, joined Manchin to announce the multinational company's intention to further invest in Ravenswood. The Ravenswood facility has been a key asset of Alcan's Engineered Products Business Group, which has been steadily broadening its product and service offering, especially in the aerospace sector.

"This investment is strategic for Alcan Rolled Products-Ravenswood because it will enable the facility to meet the growing demand of its customer base," commented Steve Abelman, president and CEO of the Ravenswood plant.

"By significantly increasing our plate capacity, this expansion will allow Ravenswood to secure its long-term market position and invest in the future of its customers, workforce, the local community and West Virginia."

The facility employs more than 1,000 people and is one of Jackson County's largest employers. The Ravenswood site is one of the largest aluminum rolling mills in the world. It produces high-quality aluminum plate, coil and sheet products mainly for the aerospace, aeronautical and transportation industries.

Alcan and its union employees spent the summer at the bargaining table negotiating a contract agreement. After deadline extensions, Manchin intervened and urged members of USWA Local 5668 to accept the company's offer. Prior to his intervention, Manchin had been told by Jacques the company was prepared to make significant investments in the local facility.

That contract was approved by a vote of 470-305 on Sept 2, 2005. The name of the plant officially changed from Pechiney Rolled Products to Alcan Rolled Products with the acceptance of the contract.

Manchin noted at Tuesday's conference the "significant amount of positive progress" that has occurred in the 102 days since the contract was accepted. He also commented by accepting the contract, union members saved not only their own jobs but jobs at Century Aluminum, the neighboring company that supplies raw products for Alcan.

"I again thank the member of the local union and the management of Alcan for working together to ensure the long-term viability of this important West Virginia employer," said Manchin. "This announcement shows the high level of confidence that Alcan has in the more than 1,000 employees at its Ravenswood facility, and further strengthens the foundation from which Alcan can continue to expand its West Virginia operations."

Jacques added, "This investment is a clear demonstration of Alcan's commitment to its customers, particularly in the aerospace industry. It illustrates our drive to maximize value and our focus on customer service and technical excellence. I am confident that this investment will enable the facility to continue to improve its operational and financial performance and help realize our expectations."

Jim Guillow, vice president of human relations at Alcan-Ravenswood, said not only does the investment illustrate their confidence in its customers by expanding its own operations, but also its commitment to Jackson County.

“We’re building for the future,” he remarked. “We’re producing what is needed to be a viable employer. And with our success we receive favorable investments and our customers respect what we’re doing in the marketplace.”

This is the third significant announcement to come from Alcan’s Jackson County site since the contract was accepted in September. On Monday, the plant announced it had completed a \$840,000 investment in a new chlorine storage and distribution facility.

Housed in two buildings, the new facility provides significant operational, safety and environmental benefits as well as reduces the amount of chlorine on site by 90 percent.

Abelman called it a “clear demonstration of Alcan’s commitment to the environment and employee health and safety.” He added the addition makes casting operation more cost efficient.

The Ravenswood plant worked with the West Virginia Environmental Department office to develop the new chlorine system and replace the old one. Engineers, craftsmen and security personnel are currently being trained on the system’s operation and emergency procedures.

On Oct. 31, Alcan Rolled Products-Ravenswood announced it had signed a multi-year agreement with The Boeing Company to supply a variety of high-performance aluminum products to the aircraft manufacturer.

“This contract is strategically important for Ravenswood as it represents a significant increase in its business and is a clear indication of the new initiatives under way to build a bright future for the plant,” said Jacques.

Under the agreement, Ravenswood would supply its innovative lightweight aluminum products primarily for Boeing’s 737 and 777 commercial aircraft programs. Those products are considered an important contribution to the further development of high-tech aerospace solutions, meeting customer’s evolving requirements for reduced manufacturing costs and optimum weight-performance ratios.

Alcan Inc. has operations in primary aluminum, fabricated aluminum as well as flexible and specialty packaging, aerospace applications, bauxite mining and alumina processing. Alcan employs almost 70,000 people and has operating facilities in 55 countries and regions.

Contact Christina Bright at [cbright@newsandsentinel.com](mailto:cbright@newsandsentinel.com)