

Société Métallurgique de Haute Moselle

SAM
Neuves Maisons



FORNI ELETTRICI



1872-2004

Having lost the ferrous basin of Lorraine with the majority of its steel industries after the 1870 war, France has to invest on new sites. In March 1st 1872, the Société Métallurgique de Haute Moselle is founded by a joint venture of 18 shareholders among whom there was Mr. Victor de Lespinats, a civil engineer of the Paris Mines.

That location was chosen because of the existing railway connection between Nancy and Dijon which linked the plant to the Eastern Railway Network and to the Southern branch of the East Canal, still a project.

The aim was to build a plant which would produce pig-iron using the ore which was plenty available underground the Haye plain. In 1874 the first blast-furnace was blown-in and shortly after a second one was put into operation.

1887 - The Société Métallurgique de Haute Moselle merges with the Société des Forges de Champigneulle et Liverdun to become eventually the «Société Métallurgique de Champigneulle et NeuvesMaisons».

1897 The Société Métallurgique de Champigneulle et Neuves Maisons merged with the Compagnie des Forges de Chatillon-Commentry and became the «Compagnie des Forges de Chatillon Commentry et Neuves Maisons».

1902 - The first Thomas converter was installed.

1903 - A first set of rolling equipment was installed: it comprised a blooming mill, a 750/t capacity rolling mill to produce billets, tracks or beams and another 550/t capacity train to manufacture angles and beams.

1909 - A Martin steelmaking plant was installed.

1910 Soon after, the first drawing mill began to produce rod in coils of 70 kilos weight. The first continuous drawing-mill with 2 lines was installed to produce wire in coils ranging from 330 to 440 kilos or straight bars as an alternative.

1955 The Neuves Maisons plant together with the Vaucouleurs heating furnaces and the Tréfileries de Sainte Colombe et Vierzon replace the Compagnie des Forges de Chatillon Commentry et Neuves Maisons taking up the official denomination «Société des Aciéries et Tréfilerie de Neuves Maisons Chatillon».

1967 The "Société des Aciéries et Tréfilerie de Neuves Maisons Chatillon" became a branch of the Société Métallurgique Hainaut Sambre which had acquired the majority of its shares.

1969 The Thomas steelmaking is converted into a OBM steelmaking equipment.

1971 A 280 tons capacity rolling mill is put into operation to produce angles, flats, square and rounds.

1973 A second continuous drawing line was built. The equipment would be operated with 109x109 section billets to produce 1.2 tons coils.

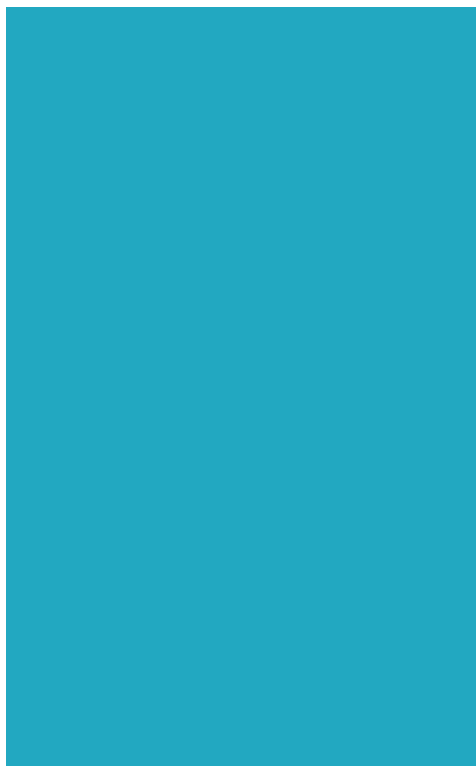
1977 By a takeover, the Compagnie Chiers Chatillon acquired the 98,77% shares of the «Société des Aciéries et Tréfilerie de Neuves Maisons Chatillon».

By that transaction the «Compagnie des Forges de Chatillon Commentry-Biache», the «Société des Hauts Fourneaux de la Chiers» and the «Société des Aciéries et Tréfilerie de Neuves Maisons» would cluster into one single company.

1979 On April 27th from the merger of the Compagnie Chiers Chatillon with USINOR, the Union Sidérurgique du Nord et de l'Est de la France (USINOR) was born and a new steelmaking machine, equipped with two 125 tons OBM converters, was built.

1980 The Martin steelmaking was halted for good.

1981 The continuous casting starts operations to produce 250x350 section rods.



1984 As a result of the state steel industry restructuring plan the Neuves Maisons site was conferred to UNIMETAL, a company which had been just established by Usinor. The Works became "UNIMETAL Neuves Maisons".

1985 The continuous rod rolling equipment underwent a series of adaptations, firstly to allow the use of 120x120 mm section billets and later on, in 1988, those of 155x155 mm section as well.

1986 With the construction of an EAF steelmaking plant of 150 t capacity, the company shifted to the electric steel production route and the Thomas steelmaking plant was halted for good.

1991 The cold drawing line was adapted to produce hot-rolled ribbed steel in coils. During the same year was created a service center named "Acor Neuves Maison" to produce cold rolled steel in coils.

1992 The continuous rod rolling mill N.2 was modified once again to increase the weight the coil up to 2,4 t.

1993 Following to the splitting of UNIMETAL, a new legal entity carrying the SAM denomination (Société des Aciers d'arMature du béton) was established to bring together the whole of the USINOR Group concrete reinforcing steel activities which comprised two electric furnaces and the steelmaking machines of Montereau and Neuves Maisons along with their pertaining steel service centres.

Sam Neuves Maison increased its own production capacity by installing a 5 lines continuous casting plant.

1994 With the installation of 3 new drawing lines SAM Neuves Maison adopted the cold drawing process.

1995 USINOR sells SAM with its affiliates (ACOR being one of those) to the British Group ASW (Allied Steel and Wire).

In 2000 Riva Group acquired SAM with its associated companies.

2002 The electric furnace undergoes a major restructuring.