

## History of Koninklijke Hoogovens

### September 20th 1918

Koninklijke Nederlandsche Hoogovens was founded in The Hague to enable Dutch industry to become less dependent on imports. The geographical location of the Netherlands was ideal for the establishment of an iron and steel company, with its excellent access to the sea for the supply of raw materials and the export of finished products. The business was established at IJmuiden, a town on the North Sea coast with good access inland via the North Sea Canal.

### 1920 - 1941

The initial capital was raised by companies, private investors, the Dutch State and the city of Amsterdam. Construction began in 1920, and in 1924 the first blast furnace was commissioned and iron production began. By the mid 1930's, Hoogovens had become the largest exporter of pig iron in the world. In 1936, they began producing cast-iron pipes. Steel production began in 1939, using open-hearth furnaces. In 1941, Hoogovens acquired Van Leer's Walsbedrijven, a rolling mill that was renamed Walserij Oost (East Rolling Mill).

### The 1960's

In the mid-sixties Hoogovens decided to diversify, particularly into aluminium and mining. In 1966, the Aldel primary aluminium smelter was commissioned, after the acquisition a year earlier of Vaassen Aluminium.

### The 1970's

In 1970, Hoogovens took a holding in Sidal, an aluminium rolling and extrusion company. On the 7 July 1972 Hoogovens and Hoesch of Germany merged to form Estel.

### The 1980's

After several years of 'manifest' crisis in the European steel industry, the co-operative arrangement between Hoogovens and Hoesch was dissolved in 1982. The European activities of Kaiser Aluminium were acquired in 1987, making Hoogovens one of the four largest producers of rolled and extruded aluminium in Europe.

### The 1990's

In 1990, the Hoogovens group had five divisions; Steel, Aluminium, Technical Services, Subcontracting, and the newly formed Steel Processing and Trading. In 1999, the trend towards greater rationalisation in the European steel industry led to the merger discussions with British Steel. At that time, Koninklijke Hoogovens had 17 business units, around 22,000 employees, a turnover of 4.9 billion Euro, production of 6.7 million tonnes of crude steel and sales of 429,000 tonnes of aluminium products. On October 6, 1999, the merger with British Steel to form Corus came into effect.