The New Steel Industry.

The North American steel industry is committed to reaching the highest levels of productivity and quality in the world—all while greatly improving its environmental performance. Swiftly changing customer demands and expanding global competition have triggered a sweeping transformation and modernization of the North American steel industry. Today, the steel industry is in the world’s top tier of productivity, environmental responsibility, competitiveness and product quality.

In today’s steel mills, red-hot billets and slabs of steel glide down aisles of rollers, their progress silently monitored by electronic sensors. In climate-controlled glassed-in “pulpits” above the refractory floor, highly trained experts observe computer monitors, confirming the steel’s world-class quality and dimensional accuracy—always in pursuit of perfection. In its constant pursuit of quality, the North American steel industry’s vision of the steel plant of the future will take these techniques and new technologies even further.

More than 120,000 technicians, engineers and scientists are employed in today’s North American steel mills. As a result of the re-engineered workplace and the highly skilled workforce, the steel industry has been revitalized:

- Labor productivity has more than tripled since the early 1980s, going from an average of 10.1 man-hours per finished ton to an average of two man-hours per finished ton in 2006. Many North American plants are producing a ton of finished steel in less than one man-hour.
- The steel industry has undergone the most significant consolidation and restructuring in decades. Several landmark acquisitions totaling over $35.0 billion have occurred.
- Groundbreaking labor/management agreements have facilitated industry consolidation. Broadened job scope and streamlining of management personnel have produced dramatic operational efficiencies and increased worker involvement.
- Improved steel productivity from the Section 201 restructuring will have an estimated annual benefit of between $2 to $4 billion to the U.S. economy. In Canada, productivity has increased by 14 percent per year, compared to 3.2 percent for all manufacturing and 1.4 percent for the entire economy.

Innovation combined with progressive strategies to make world-quality steels is paving the way for North America’s New Steel Industry, an industry committed to building a stronger, safer, environmentally friendly world for today and future generations.