

Infinite opportunities

Business
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performance
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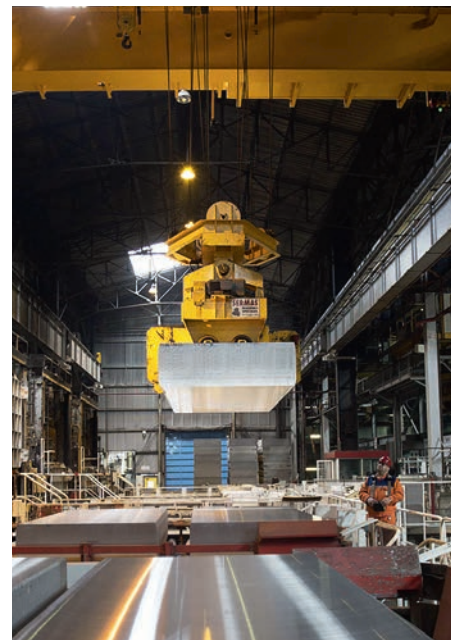
In focus: Aluminium Stewardship Initiative

Fostering greater sustainability in the aluminium value chain

Launched in 2012, the Aluminium Stewardship Initiative (ASI) aims to foster greater sustainability and transparency throughout the aluminium industry. Dr. Fiona Solomon, who became its first Executive Director in March 2015, explains the ASI's remit and the progress she is targeting in the years ahead.



A full video of the interview can be seen at www.constellium.com/media/multimedia-library



What is the ASI?

The ASI is the result of producers, users and stakeholders coming together to build consensus on responsible aluminium. The initiative is aiming to build an independent third-party certification program for the responsible production, sourcing and stewardship of aluminium.

The key issues for aluminium include biodiversity and mining, greenhouse gas emissions, indigenous peoples' rights, key wastes at specific processing stages such as bauxite residue and spent pot lining, as well as material stewardship and the broader circular economy questions. The ASI is seeking to drive best practices on each of these.

“Our aim is to build an independent third-party certification program for the responsible production, sourcing and stewardship of aluminium.”

What progress have you made?

Since 2015 we've been primarily developing the ASI governance model for the organization as an incorporated entity, culminating in the adoption of a new Constitution at the 2016 inaugural Annual General Meeting. We have now held the first elected Board and Standards Committee meetings under this new governance model, and convened an Indigenous Peoples Advisory Forum for ASI.

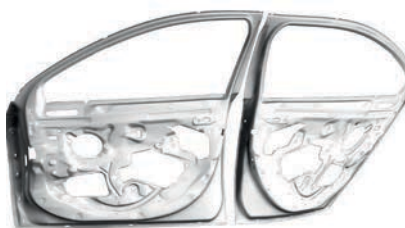
In addition, we've started documenting the key elements of the assurance model for the initiative. This includes things like how audits will take place, how member companies will prepare for those audits, who carries out the audits and what gets reported publicly, as well as what claims can be made about certification. We've also been working on a Chain of Custody standard that will have further public consultation over the next year or so, that will help to support approaches to responsible production and sourcing.

“Our challenges include managing expectations, building consensus and having people work together to articulate a common vision.”

What are the next key milestones and challenges?

The priorities now are to continue to progress all of the technical documentation that's required for a working certification program. We will continue to roll out implementation of ASI's governance model with committees and working groups to support the work of the Board and Standards Committee, and continue to grow membership and engagement with ASI across all stakeholder groups.

The challenges are similar to all multi-stakeholder processes: managing expectations, building consensus and having people work together to articulate a common vision. We have a lot of work to do as a group of stakeholders.



Participants often have a lot of individual experience and expertise, so there's a cross-education element to these processes that adds real value.

How will the ASI benefit member companies and organizations?

For upstream companies, the ASI provides the opportunity to become involved in a process that sets standards for sustainability in the global aluminium value chain. In the future the certification program will give members the ability to demonstrate that they implement responsible practices.

For downstream companies that use aluminium, the ASI provides the opportunity to be part of a whole value chain initiative and to demonstrate practices towards responsible sourcing and stewardship of aluminium in the products that they design and produce.

In the future, certification will give the opportunity for companies that use aluminium to demonstrate responsible sourcing and stewardship around their products that contain aluminium.

We greatly encourage civil society organizations to participate in the ASI. We are strongly focused on developing an initiative that achieves real impact on the ground socially and environmentally, and we want civil society voices to be at the table for that process.

How do you see Constellium's value in this initiative?

Constellium was one of the original 14 companies that first created the ASI as a project under the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). The Company has played a leading role in advancing sustainability in the global aluminium value chain and no doubt will continue to encourage its partners and peers to join it on that journey.

In the future, achieving certification will enable Constellium to demonstrate its responsible production, sourcing and stewardship approaches towards aluminium.

Where will the ASI be in five years?

My vision is that the ASI will have a thriving certification program for a diverse and growing global membership. We want to see sustainability and human rights principles embedded in the global aluminium value chain and to see companies invest in and reward responsible production, sourcing and stewardship.

“We want to see sustainability and human rights principles embedded in the global aluminium value chain.”

Dr. Fiona Solomon
Executive Director, Aluminium
Stewardship Initiative

