

# Port Talbot plant plans on track, says Tata Steel

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**TATA STEEL'S PLANS** to set up a 3-million-tonne environmentally friendlier electric arc furnace (EAF) at Port Talbot in the UK is on track and the company is in discussions with the unions. The discussions will help in finalising the new structure and faster completion of the process, it said.

"...we are mindful of the fact that we are dealing with a sensitive subject. This is also about getting the investment process in place. So, we continue to engage with the unions and we continue to do so till it gets completed," Tata Steel executive director and chief financial officer Koushik Chatterjee said in an analysts' call.

The formal process, which starts after a certain period, takes about 45 days.

"The consultation process started ever since our announcement in September. There is a proper process that we have to follow, which is stipulated even legally. We will continue to hear their point of view on any other suggestions or advice or any point that they may have on our proposal and once we have looked at it over the next couple of weeks, we will certainly progress this conversation," he added.

On September 15, ending years of uncertainty, Tata Steel



Tata Steel CEO & MD  
TV Narendran

entered into an agreement with the UK Government to convert its coal-based steel manufacturing at Port Talbot into EAF, entailing a total investment of £1.25 billion. While the UK government has offered £500 million, the Indian company would invest about £700 million from its internal accruals over the next four years in the plant.

Talking of steel price, Tata Steel CEO & MD TV Narendran said it had moderated across regions during the quarter on slowdown in economic activity, elevated interest rates in the US and EU and persistent weakness in the property market in China.

"In India, the steel prices were impacted by global sentiment but given the resilient demand, it witnessed a lower drop in prices by about 3% q-o-q compared with the rest of the key markets. As a result, net realisations declined by ₹2,400 per tonne q-o-q, better than our guidance of ₹3,000 per tonne."