

# European Community



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## PRESS RELEASE

### EC-CANADA COLLABORATION ON STEEL RESEARCH

As a result of initiatives taken by the Commission of the European Communities and the Canadian Government under the EC-Canada Framework Agreement for economic and industrial cooperation, agreement has been reached on a major collaborative programme of research and development in the steel sector that will extend over a period of three years.

The joint action, involving steel companies in Canada and in six member states of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) - Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom - is aimed at improving the efficiency of the blast furnace, which is the predominant ironmaking process.

The mutual exchange of information and experience that will result from this international cooperation will contribute to the development of economical and practical means of further improving the efficiency of the blast furnace process and, thereby, to energy saving.

The cooperation will extend a large Community investigation on the behaviour of coke (the main source of fuel) and its effects on blast furnace performance, which is already receiving support through the ECSC steel research programme and is being coordinated by the British Steel Corporation (BSC), in conjunction with the British Carbonization Research Association (BCRA). A total of 23 European blast furnaces are involved in the study; the three Canadian furnaces that will join the programme are at the Hamilton, Ontario, works of the Dominion Foundries and Steel Limited (Dofasco) and at the Algoma Steel plant at Sault-Ste-Marie, Ontario.

This collaborative effort, which has just commenced, will be of benefit to both sides since it will enable a study to be made of a wide range of coke grades as well as a variety of blast furnace practices.

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