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Highlights

- » **Gerdau Group acquires 28.88% of Aços Villares S.A. shares**
- » **Diaco among the 100 largest companies in Colombia**
- » **Gerdau Açonorte competes in the National Quality Award 2008**
- » **Gerdau and Abece launch the 2008 Structural Engineering Talent Awards**

Gerdau Group acquires 28.88% of Aços Villares S.A. shares

Metalúrgica Gerdau S.A. has closed a deal with BNDESPAR on the purchase of 28.88% of company Aços Villares S.A. shares for US\$ 1.2 billion.

The payment will be made via issuance of Metalúrgica Gerdau S.A. debentures, which may be exchanged for preferred shares of Gerdau S.A.

Diaco among the 100 largest companies in Colombia

Diaco, the Gerdau Group steelmaking unit in Colombia, has become the largest steel mill in the country. The company ranks number one in the industry, according to the list of the 100 largest companies in Colombia drawn up by magazine *Semana*.

The ranking is published annually based on the criterion considering each company's operating income.



Diaco, a Gerdau steel mill in Colombia

Gerdau Açonorte competes in the National Quality Award 2008

The Gerdau Açonorte steel mill, located in Pernambuco, will represent the Gerdau Group in the National Quality Award (PNQ) 2008, which recognizes management excellence in Brazilian organizations. The unit has already been among the winners of the Pernambuco Quality Program for two years and is now preparing to compete nationally. In 2007, Gerdau Riograndense, the mill located in Rio Grande do Sul, was awarded with the PNQ.

The Program evaluation stages began on the 28th March and will continue until 24th November, when the PNQ 2008 presentation ceremony will be held.



With operations beginning in 1973, Gerdau Açonorte has an installed capacity of 280,000 tons of steel per year and has ISO 14001 and 9001 certification

Gerdau and Abece launch the 2008 Structural Engineering Talent Awards

Gerdau and the Brazilian Association of Structural Engineers and Consultants (Abece) have launched the 2008 Structural Engineering Talent Awards. The award is considered the greatest acknowledgement in the field of structural engineering in Brazil, and its 6th edition will honor the people who have most contributed to taking engineering further in the past few years. There are four categories: special constructions, infrastructure, small-size constructions, and buildings.

The projects will be judged by an expert committee staffed by Abece and Gerdau members. The judges will analyze whether each construction meets the items listed in the award regulations, among them the proper use of materials, product savings during construction, layout originality and creativity, and harmonious installation in the environment.



The winners in each category will be announced on October 22, and as a tribute to their work they will be given a trip to the World of Concrete Fair, the largest world event in the concrete business, to be held in Las Vegas (USA). An honorable distinction will also be presented to one engineer in each category, and they will get a participation diploma and a plaque commemorating the event.

The 2007 edition of the Structural Engineering Talent Awards had a record number of applicants: 124 projects participating. In 2006, 86 projects were entered, and in 2005, 32. "Every year the award has been consolidating itself as a national benchmark in the area, as it appreciates engineers and fosters the improvement of the Brazilian construction industry", said Renato Bernardes, construction marketing director for the Gerdau Group.

