

Read breaking news about Gerdau in the world. Enjoy!

## Highlights

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### **Gerdau receives award from the World Steel Association for safety practices**

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Gerdau, André B. Gerdau Johannpeter, received the "Safety and Health Excellence Recognition 2011" awarded by the World Steel Association for the company's safety practices. Gerdau was recognized for its "Molten Steel Path" project, which aims to ensure safe procedures during the process of melting, refining, and transportation of molten steel. The award was given during the 45th annual meeting of the association, which brought together the leading companies in the steel industry in Paris, France, in October.

This year, 23 cases from 21 companies entered the competition for the award, which was given for the fourth time. This is the second time Gerdau, the leading producer of long steel in the Americas and one of the leading suppliers of special steel in the world, receives the award from the World Steel Association. The association represents about 170 steel producers, which produce about 85% of the steel in the world.



*CEO of Gerdau, André B. Gerdau Johannpeter (right), receives recognition for the "Molten Steel Path" Project  
Photo: World Steel Association*

### **Gerdau steel in the Transnordestina railroad**

Gerdau supplied about 40 thousand metric tons of steel for the construction of the Transnordestina railroad, which will connect three cities in the north-northeast region of Brazil to the ports of Suape, in Recife (state of Pernambuco), and Pecém, in Fortaleza (state of Ceará). The total length of the railroad will be 1,728 km, including new and renovated sections.

The main product supplied by Gerdau is the GG 50 fabricated rebar, which is being used in constructions that are part of the project, such as bridges and overpasses, rain water sewage, street gutters, fencing posts, slabs, and underground passages. Fabricated rebars are delivered ready for use. They increase the speed of the construction work and reduce cost by providing a productivity gain of up to 70% in the production process of metal structures. The Transnordestina railroad is scheduled for completion in 2013.

### **Gerdau researches a new type of nano steel for the automotive industry**

Gerdau is continually working to monitor and anticipate its customers' needs. Thus, the company has research and development centers in Brazil (states of São Paulo and Rio Grande do Sul), the United States, and Spain. The Research Center of Gerdau Sidenor in Spain has been operating for over 25 years and is a benchmark in the European community in terms of research and development on special steel. Currently, this center is conducting a pioneering project of nanotechnology. It is a research project to develop a type of nano special steel for the automotive industry.

The inclusion of nanotechnology in the automotive industry is expected to bring many benefits, such as development of new applications for steel and reduction of energy consumption in the production process of components. Furthermore, the nano structural characteristics of the new steel will make it possible to cut down intermediate operations in the production process.

At first, this new product is being studied to be used in the automotive industry to improve physical properties such as strength, toughness, or useful life. In addition, as the research progresses, nano steel might be used in the renewable energy sector, being employed in wind turbine gearboxes.



*Gerdau is involved in research and development of different types of steel*

*Photo: Rogério Neto Gomes*

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### **Sipar Gerdau launches Program for the Development of Suppliers**

As part of the Social Responsibility projects focused on the business chain, the Program for the Development of Suppliers was launched at the industrial plant located in Perez, Argentina. The program is supported by the National Institute of Industrial Technology (INTI), a public entity that operates in the whole country and provides services related to generation and transfer of industrial technology.

The project will have three phases: investigation of the company, training period, and implementation of an action plan. The goal is to implement performance indicators to optimize processes, costs, and inventories, laying the groundwork for future projects of standard certification. In 2011, the pilot-group will benefit 7 companies that were pre-selected from a group of 65 suppliers participating in the Supplier Assessment System in 2010. Completion of the program is scheduled for the end of 2012.

This program is developed by the Procurement area along with the Gerdau Institute, which is responsible for Gerdau's social responsibility policies and guidelines. In 2011, Gerdau developed supplier development programs in Brazil and Peru, including initiatives that stimulate entrepreneurship, management excellence, and increased competitiveness, thus generating shared value and sustainable development for everyone.



*Program will benefit suppliers in the region  
Photo: Gerdau Archive*

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### **Gerdau's rolling mill at Colombia gets the ISO 14001 certification**

As a result of its commitment to the preservation of the environment, Diaco, the Gerdau's company in Colombia, has received the ISO 14001 certification of Environmental Management Systems (EMS) for the Diaco Yumbo rolling mill, located in the municipality of Yumbo, Valle del Cauca.

Certifications are achieved through the optimization and improvement of all productive products of a company, thus ensuring compliance with the environmental standards required by the governmental agencies responsible for controlling the use of these standards in the country.

With the achievement of this important seal of quality, Diaco reiterates its commitment to the environment and the transparency of its practices, highlighting the importance of the production process.



*Diaco Yumbo rolling mill  
Photo: Gerdau Archive*

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### **Gerdau launches "Aprimorar" program in a partnership with SENAI and SINDUSCON RS**

In a partnership with SENAI (National Service for Industrial Training) and SINDUSCON RS (Association of Civil Construction Companies of Rio Grande do Sul), Gerdau launched the education and training program for civil construction workers specialized in the production of iron structures. The "Aprimorar" program will provide the participants with certifications and internship and job opportunities in construction companies upon training completion.

With the purpose of expanding the project to 10 other Brazilian states in 2012, the program is part of the alliance "Integration of the Informal Sector to the Steel Business Chain", which is developed by Gerdau and the German International Cooperation Agency (GIZ), also offering a technical course on metal work. In Peru, the project will be implemented in 2011.

Under the supervision of the Gerdau Institute, which is responsible for Gerdau's social responsibility policies and guidelines, the company continuously invests in programs developed for customers and suppliers, providing training to companies and professionals and contributing to improve its business chain.

### **Gerdau represents Brazil in the final phase of the FERD Award for Social Entrepreneurship sponsored by Junior Achievement**

The Estrela Guia Project, supported by the Gerdau's mill located in Barão dos Cocais (state of Minas Gerais), represented Brazil in the world final phase of the FERD Award for Social Entrepreneurship, sponsored by Junior Achievement-Young Enterprise Europe. The Estrela Guia project was the sole representative of the Americas in the last phase of the awards held in Oslo, Norway. In all, 43 projects were entered in the competition and 68 countries participated.

The Estrela Guia Association is managed by a group of community leaders and it was created during the Community Leadership Program implemented through a partnership between Junior Achievement and Gerdau. Currently, the association provides the local communities with computer courses, tutoring, and monitoring of people with learning difficulties.

Under the supervision of the Gerdau Institute, which is responsible for Gerdau's social responsibility policies and guidelines, several programs and partnerships are being established with entities present in the various communities where Gerdau operates.



*Final phase of the awards was held in Oslo, Norway  
Photo: Estrela Guia Archive*

### **Gerdau plants receive the 2011 ABRH Top Citizenship Award**

The Brazilian Association of Human Resources (ABRH) awarded the 2011 Top Citizenship trophy, Company category, to the Gerdau Piratini and Riograndense steel mills, located in the municipalities of Charqueadas and Sapucaia do Sul (state of Rio Grande do Sul), respectively.

The Top Citizenship Award was created in 2001 and it is an annual recognition given to public or private companies that develop social investment projects, bringing benefits to their neighboring communities.

Under the supervision of the Gerdau Institute, which is responsible for Gerdau's social responsibility policies and guidelines, the company develops several social programs and partnerships with important entities.



*Together, the projects of Piratini and Riograndense mills have benefited more than 100 youths*  
*Photo: Gerdau Archive*

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