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For Immediate Release

SHINAGAWA Group: One SHINAGAWA at AISTech

With growing attention on the U.S. steel industry, this year's AISTech conference, which was held in the historic steel city of Pittsburgh, reached a record-breaking scale. According to current figures released by AISTech, attendance was over 9,000 participants, which significantly exceeds the typical attendance of around 8,000. The exhibition had more than 650 participating companies, making it the largest event in the conference's history. Hosted at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in downtown Pittsburgh, organizers noted that the venue had exceeded capacity, with a number of exhibitor applications unfortunately unable to be accommodated due to overwhelming demand.



Shinagawa Group members from Japan, United States, and Brazil striking the One SHINAGAWA pose

Our Group participated with representatives from the United States, Japan, and Brazil, showcasing the strength and diversity of the “One SHINAGAWA” network. Participating companies represented a broad range of businesses, including refractories (Shinagawa Refra), mold fluxes (Shinagawa Refra, SAM, Dynamix, and SDAN), ceramics (SSCA), and installation/engineering services (Reframax).

This year, particular attention was given to our mold flux business. In addition to the long-established presence of SAM (Shinagawa Advanced Materials Americas), this marked the first exhibition appearance following the completion of our investment in Dynamix Casting Fluxes in March of this year. Further strengthening our position as a leading supplier in the North American mold flux market. As a result, our mold flux technologies and solutions attracted significant interest throughout the exhibition.

Meanwhile, Reframax (Brazil) received strong interest and numerous inquiries regarding the execution of installation and engineering services in North America, leading to highly productive discussions with industry partners and customers.

On the technical side, our mold flux technologies were also highlighted through a research presentation delivered by Junya Ito, a staff manager at Shinagawa Refra who was assigned to SDAN (Shinagawa Danieli Advanced Materials) in April, the joint venture mold flux manufacturing and sales company currently being established in Italy in partnership with Danieli. His presentation, titled “*Effectiveness of glass raw materials rich in alkali and alkaline earth oxides for mold powders,*” introduced the latest research developments in our mold flux technologies.

The presentation demonstrated that adding recycled glass materials rich in alkali and alkaline earth oxides—such as blast furnace slag and recycled solar panel glass—to mold powders used in continuous steel casting generates an exothermic crystallization reaction when heated inside the mold. The effect was confirmed through DSC and XRD analysis. These crystallization behaviors are expected to improve thermal insulation at the molten steel interface, contributing to enhanced steel quality and improved casting efficiency. Furthermore, the study highlighted the potential of incorporating industrial by-products into mold powders as a promising approach toward achieving sustainability and supporting SDG initiatives.

Next year’s conference will be held in Nashville, a location especially meaningful for us as one of our key home bases in North America.