

AGIS: Enroute to Sustainable Development



Abu Bucker Husain, CEO Al Ghurair Iron & Steel (AGIS) talks to Calcus/Khaleej Times about AGIS' resilient journey to achieving the triple bottom line enabling success.

Tell us about AGIS's journey, its challenges and success stories?

AGIS started operations in October 2008 right in the middle of the global economic crisis. A newcomer in the market at that time, we witnessed a challenging time during the recession, especially because we cater to the construction sector that took the main hit, keeping in mind that the GCC is a trading hub where buyers usually operate under open credit terms. With all odds being against us, we still managed to establish ourselves as a quality producer. This was primarily due to the excellent quality of the products and prompt deliveries that customers can rely on. It is with immense pride to say that we have been running at full capacity since the very first year of our operations. Our joint venture with one of the world's largest steel maker in terms of capacity and the best in terms of quality, Nippon Steel Sumitomo Metal Corporation, is a testimony of our success.

How is quality control enforced at AGIS?

In AGIS we pay a lot of attention to the quality of our products as well as service to our clients. Our quality marks and accreditations include ISO 9001:2015 QMS by BSI and Emirates Quality Mark (EQM) by Emirates Authority for Standardization and Metrology (ESMA). We are constantly striving to produce and deliver defect free material to our customers, on time, every time. We do that by controlling the input material, our production process and inspection of our material throughout the process and at finishing stage.

Apart from Quality Assurance plan, we use various Quality Improvement Tools for continuous improvement of Business and Operational Processes, such as: Benchmarking, 7 QC Tools, 5Why analysis, Statistical Quality Control (SQC) / Statistical Process Control (SPC), 5 S, KAIZEN and Quality Circles.

Health and Safety are of utmost importance especially in this sector, how do you manage that?

Health & Safety are not just important for the industrial sector, but also given the highest level of attention by ZonesCorp, the Sector Regulatory Authority (SRA). We have OHSAS 18001 certification and our occupational health & safety management system is approved by OSHAD. Health & Safety issues in AGIS are taken care of by having a dedicated EHS department and safety committee for continual improvement and implementation of best practices in health and safety. In addition to this, we organize regular medical camps at our premises for general health checkup of employees including audiometric testing for employees exposed to high noise level.

What are the processes that enable you to keep in check issues relating to the environment?

We are a socially responsible, ISO 14001 certified organization making conscious efforts for environmental protection by ensuring our manufacturing processes are environment friendly and have in built recycling processes to conserve energy and natural resources. Furthermore, at AGIS we have installed efficient pollution control devices to control emissions from the process lines. We have one Effluent Treatment Plant for Waste Water Treatment and Recycling, which ensures Zero wastewater discharge; in addition to having developed a green belt around the factory premises. For all our efforts, the UAE Ministry of Environment and Water awarded AGIS for outstanding environmental performance consecutively in the years 2013 and 2014.

What do you think entails sustainable development?

Our actions today need to be responsible and carefully planned so as to not compromise the safety and wellbeing of future generations. At AGIS, we undertake energy audits and implement energy saving measures wherever possible. Environment

friendly and energy efficient LED lighting has been used in our CGL2 expansion. We have achieved 100% recycling of process wastewater by investing in efficient Effluent Treatment Plant and Water Treatment Plant. As part of our ecological sustainability measures, we have developed green belts outside our factory premises with the permission of ZonesCorp. ♦

Abu Bucker Husain, CEO
Al Ghurair Iron & Steel
(AGIS). ♡

