



# STEEL EXPERT WITNESS

Steel sector litigation support



## OUR SERVICES

The main activity of [steelexpertwitness.com](http://steelexpertwitness.com) is to supply expert witnesses in order to help resolve iron and steel sector legal disputes.

Our own expert witnesses typically have many years of operating or consulting experience in the steel sector. They are well-placed therefore to provide independent opinions on technical or commercial matters relating to iron and steel.

This experience includes all areas of steel production, including raw material preparation, ironmaking, liquid steelmaking, casting and rolling. Our capabilities also extend to commercial disputes and arbitrations concerning pricing, delivery terms, transport, contract performance and product valuation for insurance or compensation purposes. Our experts also have a good understanding of the obligations that are normally expected of the expert witness role.



## ABOUT US



**Steelexpertwitness.com** represents a group of steel industry experts. These experts provide technical and commercial evidence to assist with the resolution of steel sector disputes.

**Steelexpertwitness.com** is owned and operated by Metals Consulting International Limited (MCI).

MCI is an independent firm of steel industry management consultants based in London, UK. We specialise in steel industry feasibility studies, due diligence work and steel business restructuring. MCI was founded in 2003 and is certified by the registrar of Companies in England and Wales as a privately-owned limited company.

MCI also own and operate [Steelonthenet.com](http://Steelonthenet.com), which is **Steelexpertwitness.com**'s sister site. Many of the consultants who work for MCI in a consulting role also offer the expert witness support services offered via [Steelexpertwitness.com](http://Steelexpertwitness.com).

## ABOUT US

### What we do

The professionals at **Steelexpertwitness.com** provide technical analysis and opinion that assists courts in reaching their decisions concerning iron and steel industry disputes. For examples of recent cases, please read on - or see our case studies page at <https://www.steelexpertwitness.com>.

### How we work

All experts at **Steelexpertwitness.com** abide by several main principles.

- All experts must behave with integrity.
- Experts must avoid conflicts of interest.
- Experts must apply due skill, care and diligence in their work.
- Experts must respond to clients professionally and in a timely manner.
- All experts must recognise that their overriding duty is to the court and to the administration of justice.

Our consultants provide technical explanations in plain English

## **RECENT ASSIGNMENTS**

Our recent expert witness advisory experience includes involvement in the following disputes.

### **Mill Operations including Steel Plant Performance**

- Expert witness involvement relating to operation of a special steel rod and bar rolling mill in Egypt
- Arbitration relating to the quality of hot rolled steel strip and plate at a UK steel production site
- Expert witness on the supply and performance of mill equipment supplied by an Italian firm for a bar and section mill operation in the USA
- Arbitration role in a claim for damage in service to rolling mill backup rolls for a steel plate mill in Belgium
- Working in expert role with an Italian power generation company in relation to causation of accelerated compressor blade failures (analysis of gas quality & metallurgy of blade failures).

### **Contract Terms including Quality**

- Arbitration concerning breach of a shipping contract for the movement of iron ore from Australia to China - for London-based law firm, representing the iron ore shipper
- Arbitration concerning a contract for supply of steel slabs between the largest steel producer in South America and the world's largest supplier of merchant steel slab; expert report and potential attendance at arbitration in New York - for US-based law firm, representing the purchaser
- Expert witness role for a Portuguese bar and rod producer regarding the quality of continuous cast billet supply.

## **RECENT ASSIGNMENTS (cont'd)**

### **Contract Terms including Quality**

- Assessment of quantum of damages regarding a billet shipment alleged by buyer to be sub-standard and outside contract specification. Acted as expert on pricing and valuation matters in conjunction with technical and legal advisers - for London-based law firm representing the steel supplier
- Expert witness in a commercial dispute between an Indian iron ore supplier and a Pakistani integrated steel company (ICC International Court of Arbitration, London).

### **Pricing Issues**

- Arbitration concerning pricing of steel scrap, including preparation of expert report - for London-based law firm, representing the purchaser
- Arbitration concerning the pricing of steel reinforcing bar and wire rod, including preparation of expert report - for London law firm, representing the purchaser
- Arbitration concerning pricing of iron ore from India to a purchaser in China, including preparation of expert report for Hong Kong law firm, representing the purchaser
- Arbitration concerning pricing of iron ore from one of the world's largest suppliers in Australia to one of the world's largest consumers in Japan: initial instructions from Sydney-based law firm, representing the iron ore shipper
- Provision of information on historical prices of steel scrap for use in arbitration between a shipping company and purchaser of steel scrap - for London-based law firm, representing the shipping company.



## **RECENT ASSIGNMENTS (cont'd)**

### **Cargo Damage**

- Expert witness for a ship owner, against claims for damage at sea and the repair of merchant section mill equipment supplied to a steel mill in the USA
- Assessment of quantum of damage for a US steel processor, arising from salt-water induced corrosion of steel cargo during a Transatlantic crossing. Emphasis in the first instance was placed on quantifying the full market value of the cargo at a time point when international steel prices were declining very fast
- Other assessments arising from rust damage during transportation of rebar (steel reinforcing bar).

### **Raw Material Non-Delivery**

- Assessment of quantum of damage for a Turkish steelmaker, arising from non-delivery of pig iron from an East European supplier
- Expert witness work for Turkish billet producer in dispute between supplier of metallics for EAF operation (LCAI Arbitration) versus supplier of pig iron.

### **Asset Valuations**

- Acted for a London-based law firm on behalf of insurers regarding the valuation of an iron ore mine that was in dispute
- Arbitration concerning valuation of a raw material stockpile.

## **RECENT ASSIGNMENTS (cont'd)**

### **Steel Trading**

- Assisted London insurance broking firm in understanding common practices relating to letters of credit. Able to demonstrate that documents presented in a particular case were invalid in proving origin and destination of steel shipments
- Advised QC on use and misuse of post-dated cheques in Middle East steel trading dispute.

### **Other Cases**

- Expert witness in case between landlord and closed steel company (UK) regarding storage of large piles of secondary steelmaking slag waste on site (High Court of Justice, Chancery Division).



## OUR MANAGEMENT

SteelExpertWitness is led by Andrzej M Kotas. Andrzej is Managing Director of Metals Consulting International Ltd and specialises in modernisation and restructuring of the steel industry in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. His experience in this area was gained in the early 1990s working for Beddows & Company and later for Hatch Associates.

During his career Andrzej, who speaks fluent Polish, has led many different expert teams working on litigation cases in the UK, Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

Andrzej is a Fellow of the Institute of Business Consulting [IBC] and a Fellow of the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining [IOM<sup>3</sup>]. He is also a well-known conference speaker. In 2002 Andrzej founded the steel industry news and information portal [www.steelonthenet.com](http://www.steelonthenet.com).



Andrzej M Kotas  
Managing Director



## OUR CONSULTANTS

Our experts cover the following subject areas.

- Market-related expert witness work, especially price-related issues. Expert witness involvement includes quantum of damage determinations relating to raw material and / or steel product non-delivery.
- Cases relating to steel distribution, including steel service centre and stockholder disputes. We also have much experience in intellectual property issues and in matters to do with steel transfer pricing.
- Steel and iron ore market-related expert witness work, especially price and contract-related issues. Expertise includes quantum of damage determinations relating to steel and valuation matters for iron ore. Expertise includes familiarity with JORC and NI 43-101 mining standards.



## OUR CONSULTANTS (cont'd)

Our experts also cover the following subject areas.

- Steel rolling, spanning both flat and long product mills. Expert areas include steel plant engineering and operational issues, including forensic investigations.
- Plant commissioning, mill performance and quality matters. Experience extends to carbon and alloy steels, and stainless steel; and covers flat, long and tubular products.
- Experience in steel trading, including steel shipping fraud cases involving the London insurance market, documentation, logistics and trade finance.
- Technical matters related to metals processing. Experience encompasses integrated steelmaking plants (including coke making, blast furnace and BOF operations), mini mills (including EAF steelmaking) and ferro alloy production
- Rust damage, including assessments of steel product fitness for purpose
- Assets valuations (steelmaking raw materials and finished steel products).

Our consultants can assist with many techno-commercial issues.  
Please call us for an initial no-obligation discussion.

## **CONTACT US**

For further information and assistance, or for an initial discussion please contact:

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