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FOR RELEASE

NOTE: This press release was sent to newspapers in the following counties: Hancock, Shelby, Bourbon, Henderson, Logan, Warren, & Jefferson. Local modifications to the press release are indicated in ITALIC CAPITAL LETTERS.

Secat, UK's Aluminum Researchers Improve Industry's Position

LEXINGTON, Ky. (Feb. 20, 2006) - Research performed by an organization with ties to the University of Kentucky is improving the productivity and profitability of Kentucky's aluminum producers like Aleris Rolled Products and Century (*LOCAL FIRMS IDENTIFIED HERE*) in Hancock County (*LOCAL COUNTY NAME*).

Secat, located at UK's Coldstream Research Campus in Lexington, has found ways to reduce the loss of aluminum during the melting process, improve energy efficiency of melting aluminum by 25 percent, and developing environmentally friendly ways to melt aluminum.

The firm's research is helping Kentucky's aluminum companies, the state's sixth largest employment sector, make their facilities competitive for the 21st century, said Subodh Das, president of Secat, a corporation embedded in UK's research structure.

The kind of research Secat is performing has particular meaning in (*LOCAL COUNTY NAME*), home of (*LOCAL FIRMS*), and surrounding counties where employees of those companies may live.

"The newest aluminum smelter was built in the United States in 1979. We need to design and implement new alloys based upon the realities of the recycling world," Das said.

More...

Aluminum research

Das, who also is director of UK's Center for Aluminum Technology, noted that Kentucky's aluminum companies provide a function vital to strengthening the American economy.

"To preserve our economy, our best option is to protect and improve our abilities to recycle aluminum. We must make people realize that recycling aluminum cans isn't just an environmentally friendly thing to do. It's an economic imperative if they want a healthy economy," he said.

"We also must lower the cost of melting aluminum and develop and implement more recycling-friendly alloys," he said.

With research from Secat and the UK Center for Aluminum Technology in hand, Kentucky's aluminum companies are positioning themselves for greater participation in both the national and global economies. The advances in production facilities and techniques increase the competitiveness of these companies.

Secat and the Center for Aluminum Technology also work with the Sloan Center for a Sustainable Aluminum Industry at UK. This center explores management techniques, workforce development and deployment, and ways to encourage recycling.

The partnership forged by UK with Kentucky's aluminum industry is an example of the kind of working relationship UK President Lee T. Todd Jr. has advocated.

"We've been very aggressive in targeting Kentucky's important industries and making sure we can assist them in their pursuit of growth and success. The aluminum industry certainly deserves our wholehearted support, and we're glad to give it," Todd said.

"We take UK's mission as an economic engine extremely seriously, and the relationship that we have built with the state's aluminum producers is making a real, lasting impact on the quality of life for their employees," he said.

In striving to become a Top 20 public research institution, the University of Kentucky is a catalyst for a new Commonwealth – a Kentucky that is healthier, better educated, and positioned to compete in a global and changing economy. For more information about UK's efforts to become a Top 20 university, please go to <http://www.uky.edu/OPBPA/Top20.html>

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