

March 27, 2025

IZA's International Zinc Conference A Big Success



More than 300 participants enjoyed the 2025 International Zinc & Zinc Oxide Conferences in San Diego.

The 2025 International Zinc & Zinc Oxide Conferences produced high participation and added new variety to the slate of presenters. Among the topics in temperate California: the sunny forecast for zinc in many markets, new IZA programming, and in-depth, up-to-date outlooks from the world's leading metal analysts.

Among the newsmakers, ISKY Chemicals Company's Gang Tang told participants that the zinc sulfate market is forecast to grow between four and five percent annually as more national agricultural programs recognize the benefits of using zinc fertilizers. In addition, the American Galvanizers Association's Melissa Lindsley introduced the Clean Energy Steel Construction Center, a new initiative with IZA to promote zinc's critical role galvanizing steel used in the energy transition.

Delegates representing 156 companies from 36 countries attended the event, which was covered by Media Partner Fastmarkets in these [preview](#) and [review](#) articles. Price reporters Rae Boyadjis and Natasha Porter also presented on market dynamics during the

Zinc Oxide portion of the conferences.

To celebrate this truly global event, IZA's Andrew Green debuted the [latest video](#) on zinc's important role in health and food security and a fitting tribute to both the essential element and the people who produce it.



Zinc Drives New Trends in Automotive Market

Galvanized Autobody Partnership (GAP) Manager Ana Paula Domingos Cardoso and IZA consultant Frank Goodwin led a session and provided a keynote address, respectively, at the recent Automotive Steel International Conference, organized by the Association for Iron & Steel Technology (AIST) in Orlando, Florida, to promote zinc's role in the automotive sector. While there, they were able to confirm IZA's recent positive forecast for growth in automotive steel.

A presentation from The Research Institute at Baosteel Iron & Steel Company in Shanghai reaffirms that the demand for galvanized sheet steel products within China's automotive industry has boosted the production of ultra-high strength steel at a rapid pace over the last few years, amplified by significant breakthroughs in efficiency and performance. Deputy Director Dr. Li Wang shared encouraging news for zinc in the development of galvanized and galvannealed high-strength, lightweight Dual Phases and Press Hardened Steels, which now provide a stronger, safer, and less expensive autobody. China now boasts 15 ultra-high strength steel production lines and 300 hot stamping production lines.

GAP's partners from Swansea University spoke about advances in zinc-aluminum-magnesium coatings and their deep understanding of the corrosion performance of these coatings. They also offered new insights on zinc coating applied by Jet Vapour Deposition, a continuous galvanizing deposition process with high levels of productivity and performance.

Beyond performance, galvanized auto steel is gaining attention for its sustainable production; for example, galvanizing lines are adopting an induction heating process that replaces gas with electricity in their annealing furnaces. These new heating technologies, combined with enhanced line controls to optimize scheduling and minimize production of sub-prime material, ensure continued gains in environmental performance and productivity. Please visit our [Galvanized Autobody Partnership](#) webpage to learn more about these developments in sustainability.



Nyrstar's Jasper Van Zon and Guido Janssen, Boliden's Daniel Peltonen, and IZA's Howard Winbow and Mik Gilles urge the European Commission to #DeliverTheDeal.

Delivering the Deal to Bolster Clean Industry

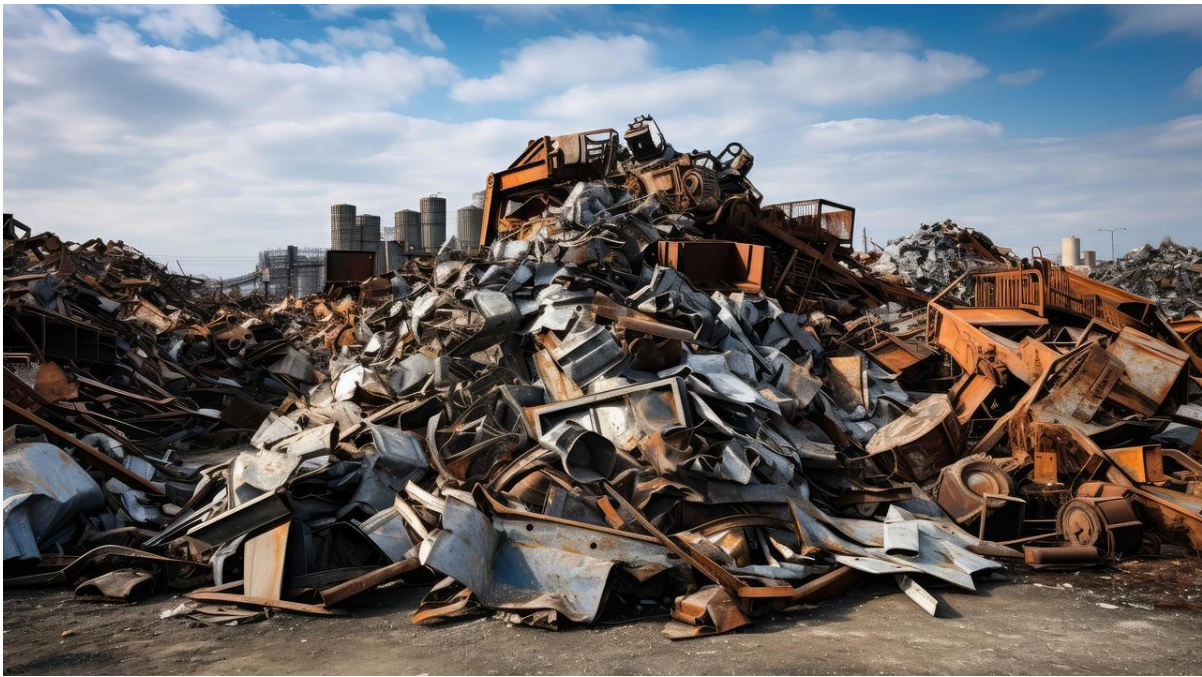
Implementing the recommendations promulgated by the European Commission's Clean Industrial Deal has spurred the advocacy efforts of IZA's regulatory team and many IZA member companies. Since IZA and other organizations met last month in Antwerp with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen to champion European industry, IZA continues to seek opportunities with its members, including memoranda to Commissioners and engaging with Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) at networking events, to promote the benefits of the deal's tenets.

What's at stake is 150 billion Euros dedicated to clean technology and decarbonization by building and expanding European competitive manufacturing, with a scope that includes mining, smelting, and recycling. This will be achieved by adopting a new Clean Industrial Deal State Aid Framework, modifying Europe's electricity market to support zinc production and processing while strengthening various innovations funds, including for start-up and scale-up projects, which can potentially benefit Zinc Battery Initiative members.

IZA will highlight the contribution from the zinc industry to facilitate the benefits for members across the value chain from the Clean Industrial Deal's mechanisms to boost clean tech; zinc plays a critical role in the production of solar arrays, wind turbines, electric vehicle steel protection, and rechargeable batteries for energy storage.

Another aspect of the EU Commission's 'Competitive Compass' is a new Circular Economy Act, which is designed to streamline regulations and facilitate the cross-border trade of secondary raw materials, including zinc. The legislation, which is scheduled to be finalized next year, also promotes recovering and reusing material from end-of-life products, an anticipated benefit for the zinc recycling industry.

IZA will continue to work with its members and like-minded organizations to promote key pieces of the Clean Industrial Deal, and speaking with this singular voice on behalf of the metals industry will lead to a stronger and more sustainable industrial base in Europe.



New Task Force Tackles Zinc's Circularity

IZA has launched a Task Force on Recycling Trade-offs in Europe to respond to member companies' concerns linked to the sometimes conflicting goals for decarbonization and increasing recycling in European Union regulations. The task force is designed to create a narrative feeding into targeted advocacy and identify opportunities for advocacy in proposed regulations.

Zinc typically is recovered from end-of-life products, residues, and waste. In general, the carbon footprint for recycling metal scrap such as zinc sheet, die castings, or galvanizing drosses is lower than when initially produced; however, when zinc is recycled from dusts or residues, the associated carbon footprint can be higher, as the pyrometallurgical nature of the recycling process requires carbon as a reductant.

The task force was developed during EZEC 2025, the recent gathering of IZA's committee covering issues related to zinc in Europe. It will support member companies recycling zinc from dusts and residues as well as provide support for conditions that both protect and encourage the recycling of zinc. The European task force will serve as model of communications and support in other regions. To learn more about the task force, contact IZA Associate Director of Sustainable Development Sabina Grund at sgrund@zinc.org.

Speaking and Writing of Zinc

The Energy Pioneer featured an in-depth [story](#) on the power and performance of zinc batteries featuring Zinc Battery Initiative Manager Josef Daniel-Ivad as well as ZBI members Enzinc and ZincFive.

More than 100 people participated in a Biodiversity Frameworks for the Metals and Mining Industry webinar led by The Biodiversity Consultancy (TBC) and sponsored by IZA and other organizations. The gathering focused on the essential components comprising biodiversity frameworks as well as key starting points for the metals and mining sector to select appropriate frameworks. Based on interest, IZA will organize follow-up webinars on dates to be determined.

Also attracting high interest - the Performance and Sustainability through Zinc Die Casting webinar, which secured 140 registrants. Program Managers Martin Gagné and Ryan Winter provided an overview of the economic and environmental advantages of zinc and the impact of recent process developments. Three additional webinars are planned for 2025.

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