ALUMINIUM NEWS

アスカ工業株式会社アルミニウムニュース

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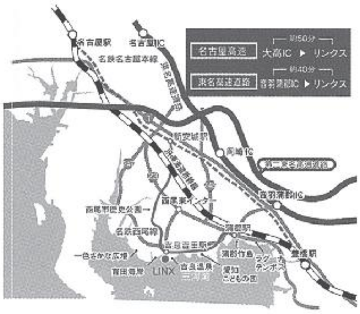
61st Asuka Seminar to Be Held on Friday, October 16

Asuka Industries has held the Asuka Seminar every autumn since the first event in 1964, with the exception of two years during the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, as in the previous year, the seminar will be held as an overnight training program at a hotel overlooking Mikawa Bay.

Seminar

Friday, October 16 16:00–17:30
"The Evolution of Automatic Transmissions and the Future of Electrification"
Lecturer: Mr. Kazuhisa Ozaki, former President of Aisin AW Co., Ltd.



Reception

18:00–20:00

Venue

Mikawa Bay Resort Linx
15 Miyazaki-Nakamichi-shita, Kira-cho, Nishio-shi
TEL: 0563-32-3711
http://www.linx-xspa.co.jp/

This year's lecturer, Mr. Kazuhisa Ozaki, served as President of Aisin AW from 2021 to 2024. He will speak about the evolution of automatic transmission technology, behind-the-scenes development stories, and the latest advancements in eAxle systems.
We look forward to your participation.

2026 Japan Die Casting Congress & Exhibition to Be Held in Yokohama from November 12

The Japan Die Casting Association will host **the 2026 Japan Die Casting Congress & Exhibition** over 3 days beginning November 12 at Pacifico Yokohama in Minato Mirai, Yokohama.

Held biennially, this event promotes the healthy development of the die‑casting industry and raises public awareness of die‑casting and related sectors. Known as j-dec, it is Japan’s largest and most prominent die‑casting event, attracting significant attention domestically and internationally.

Venues

Congress: Annex Hall F201–206

Exhibition: Exhibition Halls C & D

The exhibition will feature numerous companies and organizations showcasing the latest machinery, equipment, products, and live demonstrations of advanced technologies.

Program Highlights

[Day 1 – November 12 (Thu)]

9:40–10:40 Special Lecture (1)

“Beyond the End of Deflation — Value Creation for SMEs and the Challenge of Generating GNT”

10:40–11:40 Special Lecture (2)

“Trends in the Automotive Industry and Their Impact on the Die‑Casting Sector”

13:30–16:40 Research Paper Presentations

[Day 2 – November 13 (Fri)]

9:20–16:30 Research Paper Presentations

Inquiries

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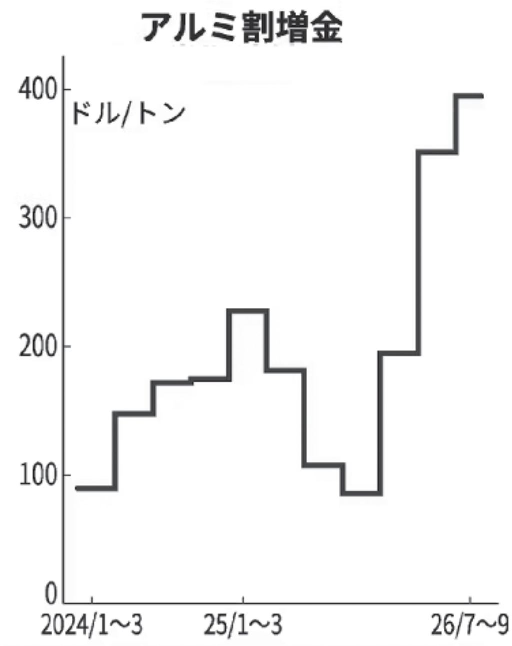
http://www.j-dec.jp/2026/

Aluminium Premium Rises by 10%



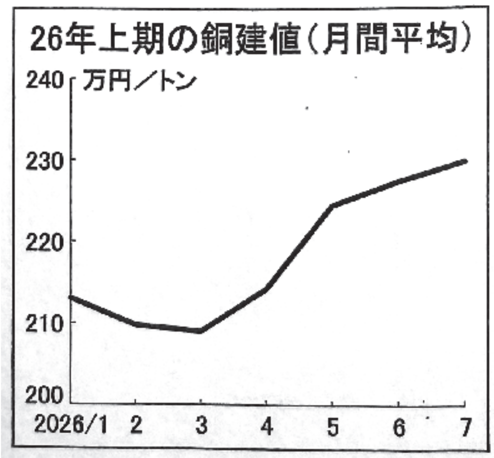
The aluminium premium paid by Japanese rolling mills to major overseas suppliers for July–September has been set at USD 395 per ton.

The premium is added on top of the London Metal Exchange (LME) aluminium price and represents the cost paid by buyers when purchasing aluminium ingots.

This level approaches the previous record high of USD 425 seen in January–March 2015. The increase is driven by worsening export conditions from the Middle East, which accounts for roughly 10% of global aluminium production, due to heightened tensions in the Strait of Hormuz.

Furthermore, LME inventories have fallen sharply—from over 500,000 tons in January to below 250,000 tons by mid‑August. Domestic port inventories have also dropped to around 240,000 tons, well below the 300,000‑ton benchmark for supply‑demand balance.

LME Copper Prices Continue to Hit Record Highs



LME copper spot prices have continued to rise, surpassing USD 14,500 on August 17 — the highest level ever recorded.

Copper buying has strengthened due to expectations of increased medium- to long-term demand for AI data centers, driven by rising AI-related stocks. The ongoing U.S.–Iran tensions have further accelerated the price increase.

LME copper inventories have fallen from 400,000 tons in April to around 200,000 tons as of August 13.

Meanwhile, COMEX inventories have surged to 730,000 tons as of August 14. The U.S. has yet to announce whether copper ingots will be added to the list of items subject to additional import tariffs. If shipments continue in anticipation of such tariffs, supply conditions outside the U.S. may tighten even further.

TAK Trading Celebrates 30th Anniversary

Non-ferrous metals trading company TAK Trading Co., ltd. (President Takashi Ueshima), held its 30th anniversary celebration on July 17 at Keio Plaza Hotel Hachioji.

Approximately 200 industry representatives attended. A guest speaker from Kobe Steel's Steel & Aluminium Raw Materials Division expressed gratitude for TAK Trading's stable supply of magnesium and silicon during the price surge in 2021.

The company also introduced its new corporate slogan:
THINK GLOBAL
ACT LOCAL
KEEP INNOVATING
(Photo: Chairman Ueshima delivering closing remarks)

Internal News

- As announced on page 1, the annual Asuka Seminar will be held on October 16. We look forward to many participants.
- Due to Middle East supply disruptions, there was a temporary shortage of steel bands used for ingot packaging. We apologize for the inconvenience. Supply has now returned to normal.
- Even after the Obon holiday, the extreme heat continues. Fundamental reforms are needed for factory operations during the summer.

Editor's Note

- Japan and the United States conducted coordinated foreign-exchange intervention beginning July 30, temporarily moving the yen from ¥164 to ¥157 per dollar.
- The Aichi–Nagoya Asian Games will begin on September 19. Nishio will host the boxing events—intense matches are expected.
- On August 18, the Trump administration announced sanctions against senior officials of the International Criminal Court (ICC), including President Tomoko Akane.
- Our thoughts are with those affected by the Kumamoto earthquake and the Kanto heavy rainfall disaster.