

South African Winner of 2010 Swedish Steel Prize

This year's international Swedish Steel Prize goes to the South African company Van Reenen Steel Ltd. The company has developed a lighter and more durable body for dump trucks in the mining industry.

The purpose of the Swedish Steel Prize is to provide inspiration and to disseminate knowledge about high strength steel and the potential for developing lighter, safer, and more environmentally sound products – all qualities of the prizewinning solution.

Dump trucks used in mining operations are exposed to extremely tough conditions. Van Reenen uses high strength abrasion-resistant steel in an innovative truck body design to create a lighter and more sustainable structure. For users, the vehicle weight is reduced by eight tons, or 19 percent. Operating and maintenance costs are lower, as is environmental impact due to lower emissions.

“Van Reenen's solution is very interesting and shows the benefits of high-strength steels,” says Martin Lindqvist, chairman of the jury and Business Area Manager SSAB. “The emergence of innovative thinking for such a well-known and tested design as a dumper body is very inspiring.”

“Just to be nominated was a great honour, but to be declared the final winner is certainly the highlight of my 25 years in design engineering, and the most important technical achievement of Van Reenen Steel in the 20 years of its existence. This prize shows that our team of design engineers in South Africa can hold their own with the best in the world,” says Bertus Haasbroek, Technical Manager at Van Reenen Steel.

The other nominees received runner-up prizes in the 2010 Swedish Steel Prize competition. They are Blupoint PTY Ltd from Australia, Ruthmann GmbH & Co from Germany, and Wranne Fåhraeus Design AB from Sweden.

SSAB instituted the Swedish Steel Prize in 1999.

Photos can be downloaded from www.ssab.com/sv/Media/Bildbank/

About the winning entry:

The new award-winning truck body design features a raised ridge dividing the floor of the truck body down the middle. This design modification offers the clear advantages of less wear and easier unloading. In addition to a stronger and more rigid construction, the vehicle weight was also reduced by eight tons. This weight reduction saves fuel, is good for the environment, and allows the vehicle to carry a larger load.

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SSAB is a world-leading producer of high strength steels. SSAB offers products, developed in close cooperation with customers in order to create a stronger, lighter, and more sustainable world. SSAB has 8,700 employees in more than 45 countries, with production plants in Sweden and the United States. SSAB is listed on NASDAQ OMX Nordic, Stockholm.