

## Mexico to Get New Steel Sheet Processing Center

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Metal One Corporation (headquartered in Minato-ku, Tokyo; President: Naoto Matsuoka) has established and begun construction of Nicometal Hidalgo, S.A. de C.V., a steel sheet processing center in Atitalaquia in Mexico's state of Hidalgo that will primarily serve the automotive sector.

Metal One currently has two sheet processing centers in Mexico—Nicometal Mexicana, S.A. de C.V., a wholly-owned Metal One Group subsidiary established in Aguascalientes State in 1994, and Coilplus Mexicana, S.A. de C.V., also a wholly-owned Group subsidiary established in Coahuila State in 2010. Located in the outskirts of the capital of Hidalgo State, the new company will be Metal One's third steel sheet service center in Mexico. This means we have created a steel sheet service center network covering northeast and central Mexico along with the capital region—the country's main manufacturing zones—and have a system in place that can respond to a wide spectrum of customer requirements.

Mexico's automotive industry has steadily rebounded from the impact of the 2008 financial crisis, manufacturing the highest number of automobiles in history, 2.56 million, in 2011. Bolstered primarily by competitive labor costs, Mexico has positioned itself as a center for manufacturing and exporting compact vehicles to the United States and the countries of Central and South America. With leading car manufacturers rushing to make large investments there, Mexico's car industry is expected to grow even more.

As Metal One's third steel sheet service center in Mexico, Nicometal Hidalgo will closely coordinate and network with the two established centers to provide advanced capabilities and services, contributing greatly to the expansion of manufacturing in Mexico, where growth is focused on the automotive industry.

### ■ Company Outline

1. Name: Nicometal Hidalgo, S.A. de C.V.
2. Location: Atitalaquia, Hidalgo State, Mexico
3. Representative: Chikami Kida, president and CEO
4. Capitalization: Approx. US\$7.5 million
5. Shareholders: Wholly owned by Metal One
6. Established: April 2012
7. Start of operations: Scheduled for the beginning of 2013
8. Number of employees: Approx. 50
9. Business line: Steel sheet processing and sales
10. Facilities: A large slitter line
11. Processing capacity: 150,000 tonnes per year