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## Innovation-driven development path of "specialized, refined, distinctive and innovative" industries

### —Pangang Vanadium Titanium Co., Ltd. aims to become a "world-class specialized and innovative demonstration enterprise".

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Recently, the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission (SASAC) released a notice on its official website regarding the list of world-class demonstration enterprises and specialized and innovative demonstration enterprises. Panzhihua Iron & Steel Group Vanadium Titanium Resources Co., Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as "Vanadium Titanium") was selected as a "world-class demonstration enterprise," marking that Panzhihua Iron & Steel has embarked on a unique path of "specialized, refined, and innovative" development in the comprehensive utilization of vanadium and titanium resources in the Panzhihua-Xichang region, becoming a leader in the domestic industry.

#### Deepen resource cultivation

#### Writing a New Chapter for Vanadium and Titanium

Data shows that the Panzhihua-Xichang region has proven reserves of 8.67 billion tons of vanadium-titanium magnetite, ranking first in China and third in the world in vanadium reserves, and first in the world in titanium reserves. However, due to the nature of its multi-element symbiosis, it is difficult to smelt, becoming an industry-wide problem. In the 1960s, the "national team," represented by Panzhihua Iron and Steel Group, overcame the global challenge of ordinary blast furnaces being unable to smelt high-titanium vanadium-titanium magnetite, laying a solid industrial foundation for the comprehensive utilization of vanadium and titanium resources.

In 2013, the National Development and Reform Commission approved the establishment of the Panzhihua-Xichang National Strategic Resource Innovation and Development Pilot Zone, elevating the innovative development of vanadium and titanium resources in the Panzhihua-Xichang region to a national strategy. As the core enterprise of the pilot zone, Panzhihua Vanadium Titanium Co., Ltd. shoulders a new historical mission.

Vanadium Titanium Co., Ltd. always keeps in mind the "major national priorities" and vigorously promotes the Panzhihua Iron and Steel Group's spirit of "hard work and striving for excellence". It has been deeply involved in the comprehensive utilization of vanadium and titanium resources in the Panzhihua-Xichang region. The utilization rates of vanadium and titanium resources have increased to 44% and 29% respectively. It has pioneered new processes and routes

for the comprehensive utilization of vanadium and titanium resources and formed a relatively complete vanadium and titanium industrial chain, which is the earliest industrial cluster in China, including vanadium products, titanium raw materials, and titanium chemicals.

Currently, Vanadium Titanium Co., Ltd. has established production, research, and sales bases in Panzhihua, Xichang, Chengdu, Chongqing, Beihai, Hong Kong, and Düsseldorf, Germany. It has diversified its vanadium and titanium product portfolio, offering vanadium series products represented by vanadium pentoxide, high-vanadium ferroalloys, vanadium-nitrogen alloys, and vanadium-aluminum alloys, and titanium series products represented by titanium dioxide and titanium slag. Among these, vanadium-aluminum alloys and titanium slag have been recognized as "Sichuan Provincial Famous and Excellent Products," while vanadium ferroalloys and vanadium-nitrogen alloys have been successively awarded the title of "Manufacturing Single Champion Product" by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of China. Its products are widely used in the steel industry, electronics industry, non-ferrous metals, chemical industry, and coatings and inks, and are exported to Southeast Asia, Europe, North America, South America, the Middle East, and Oceania.

Today, Vanadium Titanium Co., Ltd. has developed into a major global supplier of vanadium products, a major Chinese supplier of titanium raw materials, an important Chinese producer of titanium slag, and an important Chinese producer of titanium dioxide using the sulfuric acid process and chloride process.

#### Innovation-driven development creates a new pattern

Recently, at the leaching process of the vanadium product roasting area of Xichang Vanadium Titanium Co., Ltd., operator Li Jingjie started the button, realizing one-click material feeding and one-click leaching of vanadium products; at the ferrovanadium finished product line, operator Wang Xiaohong was checking the packaging operation of ferrovanadium finished products on the automatic conveyor belt... Vanadium Titanium Co., Ltd. took the lead in adopting the "calcificating roasting + sulfuric acid leaching" clean vanadium extraction process in China. The overall process technology has reached the advanced level in the industry, realizing 100% recycling of vanadium extraction wastewater and ensuring the green and safe supply of vanadium products.

Vanadium Titanium Industry Co., Ltd. adheres to the principle of strengthening the enterprise through science and technology, relying on innovation-driven development. Through years of arduous research and development, and by introducing technology while upholding integrity and pursuing innovation, the company has continuously broken through technological barriers. It has successively overcome key technologies in large-scale titanium slag electric furnace smelting and the large-scale production of molten salt chlorination processes and equipment for high-calcium magnesium titanium resources in the Panzhihua-Xichang region. This has led to a green and sustainable development path for the vanadium titanium industry, characterized by high technological content, low resource consumption, and minimal environmental pollution. This has promoted the technological advancement of my country's vanadium titanium industry and successfully earned the company the title of a national high-tech enterprise. Vanadium Titanium Industry Co., Ltd. has also established two provincial-level technology innovation platforms: the Sichuan Provincial Enterprise Technology Center and the Chongqing Municipal Enterprise Technology Center, becoming a leader in the comprehensive utilization technology innovation of vanadium-titanium magnetite in China.

Today, Vanadium Titanium Co., Ltd. has developed a large number of patents and proprietary technologies with independent intellectual property rights, and has won more than 40 provincial and ministerial-level scientific and technological achievements. Among them, the vanadium-nitrogen alloy production technology won the National Technology Invention Award and the "Second China Industrial Award".

#### Digital empowerment forges new industrial advantages

The report of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China proposed to accelerate the construction of a manufacturing powerhouse and promote the high-end, intelligent, and green development of the manufacturing industry. The National Industrial Structure Adjustment Guidance Catalogue (2019 Edition) and the Western Region Encouraged Industries Catalogue (2020 Edition) have included advanced manufacturing technologies and applications for high-quality titanium raw materials, large-scale titanium slag production technologies, chloride process titanium dioxide production, clean production development and application of vanadium oxide, and advanced manufacturing technologies for vanadium products as encouraged industries. Ansteel Group held a vanadium-titanium industry development conference, explicitly proposing to "promote the great development of the vanadium-titanium industry and strive to make it a leading force in the 'third pole' of the industry."

Facing new development opportunities, Vanadium Titanium Co., Ltd. focuses on its core business, strengthens the orderly connection of various processes, promotes continuous improvement in resource allocation efficiency and further enhances industrial resilience, and strives to build a highly competitive vanadium titanium industry system.

Recently, in the vanadium testing area of Xichang vanadium products, worker He Xuemei used the newly deployed remote network metrology and testing system to query the analytical data of samples. She said, "In on-site production, we need to test hundreds of data points every day. This system enables data resource sharing across the platform, greatly simplifying the workflow and improving work efficiency."

This is a microcosm of Vanadium Titanium Industry Co., Ltd.'s comprehensive focus on production scenarios and its deep exploration of the application of next-generation information technology in the vanadium titanium industry. Vanadium Titanium Industry Co., Ltd. has taken the lead in building and putting into operation MES systems in long-process vanadium titanium production fields such as titanium slag smelting, vanadium product manufacturing, and sulfuric acid process titanium dioxide production in China; it has also taken the lead in using 5G technology in the domestic vanadium manufacturing field, integrating intelligent equipment such as AGV unmanned forklifts and industrial robots in the vanadium manufacturing field, and building a demonstration line for the integration of informatization and industrialization. In addition, digital and intelligent transformation projects such as the Chongqing Titanium Industry intelligent demonstration line and the titanium smelting production line production centralized control, as well as the Xichang vanadium product intelligent factory project under construction, will all realize process reengineering and lean manufacturing. Next-generation digital and intelligent technologies are deeply integrated with industrial manufacturing technologies. A digital vanadium titanium industry system "from decentralized to integrated, from L0 to L4 convergence" is taking shape.

Meanwhile, Vanadium Titanium Co., Ltd. adheres to the principle of simultaneously promoting capital operation and industrial development, making full use of the listed company platform to raise funds and promote the growth and expansion of the vanadium titanium industry. It also insists on promoting coordinated development through external cooperation, signing strategic cooperation framework agreements with State Power Investment Corporation Southwest Institute, Dalian Rongke, and Sichuan Desheng to promote the development of the industrial chain and enhance product added value, and to fully promote industrial upgrading.

Looking to the future, Vanadium Titanium Industry Co., Ltd. will continue to focus on national strategies and market demands, continuously strengthen its independent innovation capabilities, and accelerate the construction of a world-class specialized and innovative enterprise characterized by "outstanding expertise, innovation-driven development, lean management, and distinctive features," making greater contributions to the high-quality development of China's vanadium and titanium industry. (Yang Ziang, Longhai Special Correspondent Wang Wenfeng)

Reviewed by: Yang Luyu; Edited by: Chen L

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