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## NORTH-EAST BUSINESS NEWS



### New Corus appointment has 'Teesside in his blood'

9:11am Friday 10th September 2010

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 By [Owen McAteer](#) »

A THAI company has appointed a steel expert, who marched to save the industry in the North-East, as interim managing director for the Corus plant it intends to buy.

Sahaviriya Steel Industries (SSI) yesterday announced it had appointed David Reid, 59, in advance of its proposed acquisition of Teesside Cast Products (TCP).

Although a final deal has to be completed, the two companies signed a memorandum of understanding on August 27 paving the way for steelmaking to restart at the plant, near Redcar, east Cleveland, by early next year.



David Reid, interim managing director for Corus, left

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Until September last year, Mr Reid spent five years as supply chain director at TCP and had been working in the US as managing partner of a metals industry consultants, when he was approached by SSI to take up his new role.

In July last year, he was one of 5,000 steelworkers and local supporters who marched through Redcar to call for the plant to be saved.

Last night, Mr Reid described his appointment as a chance to come back to his family's adopted home.

He said: "We are going to do whatever we can to complete this process as soon as possible and bring the plant back as quickly as possible. SSI has a big appetite for slab, the sooner it is rolling the better."

More than 1,000 employees have left the plant since it was mothballed in February, with 700 workers remaining, and Mr Reid hinted there would be more jobs to come.

He said: "I think, as everybody knows, to run a plant this size 24/7 it takes many hands to make it work.

"We will be starting to look at all of that, and that is a big focus over the next few weeks.

"We don't have specific numbers today, but that is all going to come out because we will need to have a good crew on board."

His appointment would appear a shrewd move by SSI as it is getting someone who not only has 40 years frontline experience in the industry, but is also close to the workforce.

He said: "I have known SSI for a long time, 26 or 27 years. I came back to know them last year when I was still at TCP, which at that time was selling slab to SSI.

"I think that probably the fact they have known me for a long time, I have had hands-on experience here, and my wife and I have lived here and been part of this community, they felt that I ticked all the boxes and would be the right person.

"I hope that I am. I was on the Redcar march last summer and I am back here for all those people I shared that day with. This is important and we need to get this place back up and running. I am here to do my part.

"One of the things I have learnt from my time in the North-East is that they may take a knock, but they get back up and keep on going.

They just won't take no for an answer."

SSI president Win Viriyaprapaikit, said: "David's strong relationships with the Teesside community and extensive experience of

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**EDITOR'S CHOICE**



**Crews tackle 200ft flames**

Firefighters were last night battling to keep control of a massive warehouse blaze after 280 tonnes of gas canisters exploded on a North-East industrial park. Chris Fay reports.



**Commissioners silent as Zurbaran furore grows**

THE Church Commissioners went to ground last night as anger grew over their secret decision to sell the historic Zurbaran paintings – taking them out of Auckland Castle after 250 years.



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enhancing productivity at the site will prove invaluable assets for Sahaviriya Steel Industries as we work towards the completion of the acquisition of Teesside Cast Products and beyond."

TCP multi-union chairman Geoff Waterfield described Mr Reid as having a bit of Teesside in his blood, adding: "I think it is fantastic.

"We have a man who cares about Teesside and steel-making.

He brings something special, he knows the people here.

"Obviously a deal is not done, but if you have someone like Dave working for SSI on Teesside, along with Jon Bolton (Corus Long Products director) and the local trade unions you have the ingredients for a good recipe.

"The cake is not made yet, but we have the right ingredients."

Redcar MP Ian Swales said Mr Reid was the ideal man for the job, adding: "His previous work on Teesside will stand him in good stead and I am sure he will do very well in his new role."

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#### Sunderland chairman now patron of Sir Bobby's fund

SUNDERLAND chairman Niall Quinn has joined forces with Newcastle

United and Middlesbrough favourites by becoming a patron of the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation.



#### Thai boxers take world titles within fortnight

TWO training partners have become the region's first world champions in their sport – since their coach.



#### Nurses celebrate team of year title

NURSES from a North-East hospital are celebrating after being named team of the year in the Nursing Times Awards.



#### RAF men to tackle 93-mile challenge

A TEAM of RAF personnel are training for a gruelling endurance exercise.



#### Sir Bobby memories help Quinn lift gloom

HAVING had to endure the torment of a humiliating defeat at St James' Park last Sunday, Sunderland chairman Niall Quinn admits he wished he could have turned to Sir Bobby Robson for support and advice to help lift the doom and gloom on Wearside.



#### Robson stands up for Mowbray

BARRY ROBSON has expressed his sympathy for the way Tony Mowbray was treated during his nine months in charge at Celtic, but insists the managerial ability of Middlesbrough's new boss will not have been dented.



#### Burley hoping to leave Mowbray rock bottom

GEORGE BURLEY heads to the Riverside Stadium today, aiming to swap places with one of his former pupils at the foot of the Championship table ten years after combining to lead Ipswich Town to fifth in the Premier League.

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