



## Voestalpine – Blast furnaces



# The company

- Private company (13,5% own by employees)
  - 41 200 employees, worldwide

# The Linz factory

- Built in 1938
- 10 800 employees (> 20 000, 20 years ago)
- Mean age : 48 on this Blast furnace
  - 50% will retire in the next 6 years
- Blue collars : all men (one woman in the future)
- 2% of foreign workers
- Continuous shift
- Salary : up to 2500 € netto

# The visit

- 1 trade union representative, working full time for the worker council
- Safety specialists : ?
- 5 OPs
  - curative and preventive role
  - good relations ...
  - except on the working time question
    - to reduce unemployment only

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# Austria's Voestalpine to Cut Employee Work Hours

Austrian steel maker Voestalpine to cut work hours for 10 percent of its employees

VIENNA, Austria January 14, 2009 (AP)

The Associated Press

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Austrian steel maker Voestalpine AG will reduce working hours for about 10 percent of its 42,000 employees because of the global economic downturn, the company said Wednesday.

The decision will affect roughly 2,500 workers in the company's Austrian-based steel division, a statement said. About 1,500 workers at Voestalpine's automotive division sites in Austria, Germany and the Netherlands also will be impacted.

The Linz-based company said the cost-saving measure is aimed at avoiding job cuts and will stay in place over the coming months.

# Process

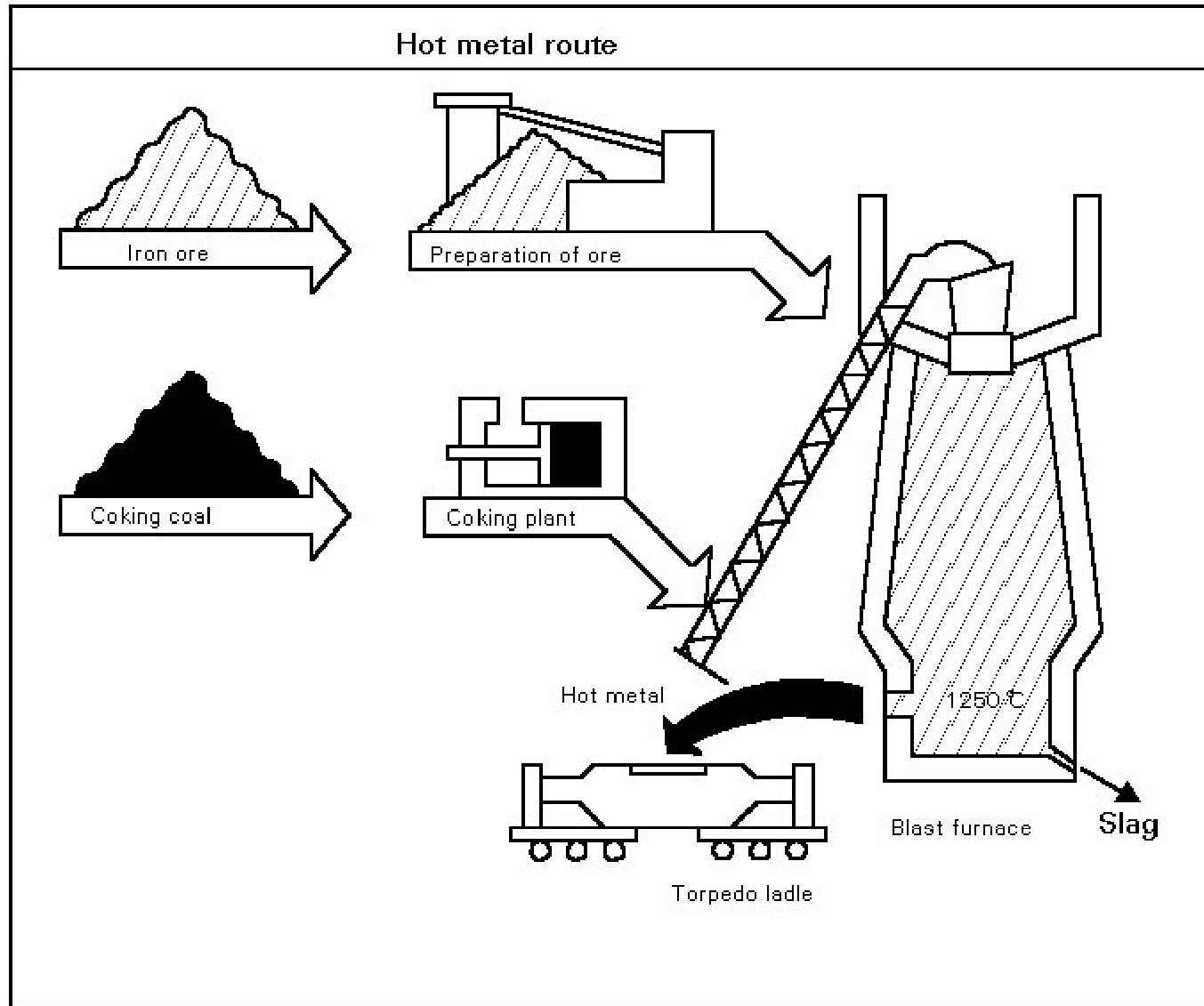


Figure 2 Blast-furnace process

# Risks

- Accidents : reduced by 80% in the last years
  - training
  - Reporting and study of near accidents
- Physical workload
  - lifting aids, cranes ...
- Noise
- Working hours
  - reduced to create jobs / afford the crisis
- Chemicals : silica, lead ... vapors & dust
  - dust aspiration : 70 000 tons reduction per year
  - 2m visibility in the 80ies
- Asbestos : no more since 1995 (PPE)



# Heat

- Linked to the process : open process
  - close system technically impossible
  - radiation ++
  - Only possibilities
    - rotate : 10 mn / 10 mn / 10 / 10 / 10 / 20
    - Personnel protective equipment
      - reduces radiation effect
      - increase physical workload





# Limits of the workplace visit

- Validity of the information depends on the source
  - trade union / physician / human resources
- Limitations of access to the process for safety reasons
- Small group needed

Would you like to work as an OP  
there ?

Yes !