Press Information

SZ-Steel retains properties in harsh sub-zero environments

As companies push the limits of performance in cold climates and harsh sub-zero Arctic environments, demand for strong, safe and well-proven materials is on the rise. Components like pipeline bolts, hydraulic parts and offshore lifting devices must offer greater reliability at sub-zero temperatures.

Designed specifically for use in sub-zero applications, SZ-Steel® offers high impact strength at extreme cold temperatures of -40℃ and below, and is proven at temperatures down to -101°C. It was awarded the Spotlight on Arctic Technology Award at OTC's Arctic Technology Conference earlier this year, recognizing innovative new products that have significantly impacted Arctic exploration and production.

SZ-Steel, which stands for sub-zero, is a family of steel grades with low impurity levels and controlled grain size that are specifically developed, designed and produced for use in extreme environments with cold climate temperatures and exacting conditions. This helps to reduce risks of embrittlement and fracturing, and also safeguard natural environments while improving safety for workers and service crews.

Ovako tests and certifies a wide range of its steel grades according to sub-zero standards. Tests are performed at -101℃ using cryogenic liquid nitrogen and methanol as a cooling media, under which conditions even otherwise well-made engineering steels can become brittle and fall apart.

SZ-Steel grades meet and actually exceed key international safety standards, and their capabilities are proven in cases around the world whether the application is for stud bolts, hydraulic equipment, drilling tools, axles or valves used in oil and gas, mining, energy generation, marine, offshore or mobile machinery. Use of correct steels is imperative in these areas given the low temperatures, and SZ-Steel can be just the solution.

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