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Marubeni-Itochu Steel Inc.  
Nihonbashi 1-Chome Bldg.,  
4-1 Nihonbashi 1-chome, Chuo-ku,  
Tokyo 103-8247

## **MISI Moves to Strengthen Global Technical Service System for OCTG Business**

Marubeni-Itochu Steel Inc. (MISI) is pleased to announce that from January 2012 it will begin collaborating with JFE Steel Corporation (JFES) to strengthen their technical services and support for oil country tubular goods (OCTGs) the two companies operate. The purpose of this move is to bolster the caliber of global customer service and relations throughout the MISI and JFES OCTG business. Recent years have seen the development environments for oil and gas grow increasingly heated. This has significantly raised the level of quality that OCTGs must meet, with user demands for technical service support becoming more sophisticated as well.

MISI already works closely with JFES, jointly operating JFE Steel Tubular Technical Center Pte. Ltd., an OCTG technical services company based in Singapore, which focuses its activities on Asia and Oceania. Recently, however, MISI and JFES reached an agreement to expand the scope of business targeted under this arrangement to the worldwide market.

More specifically, the current system—which mobilizes Singapore and Houston, Texas as the key bases for the OCTG business—will be restructured as outlined below. Based on these changes, Singapore and Houston will effectively serve as the two cornerstones of a global-scale technical service framework.

**1. Singapore:** Service bases will be established in Dubai, Beijing, and London under the control of JFE Steel Tubular Technical Center (Chairman:

Ryosuke Mochizuki, of JFES's Tubular Products Business Planning Dept.), a joint venture technical service company formed by MISI and JFES. These outlets will cooperate in serving all world markets with the exception of North, Central, and South America.

**2. Houston:** MISI and JFES will launch a partnership to be known as JFE-TC Houston, which will be positioned to cover the North, Central, and South American markets.

In addition, the MISI and JFES technical divisions will be merged to create a single integrated customer contact center, making it possible to furnish highly advanced technical services with redoubled efficiency and speed. Working under this new structure, MISI and JFES will make every effort to raise the level of customer satisfaction on the technical front.

Please direct any inquiries about this news release to Mr. Manabu Kuboyama or Ms. Chie Masada of the General Coordination Department at MISI.

Tel: 03-5204-3345