

October, 2024

Krosaki Harima Corporation

Strengthening Our Alliance with a Leading Brazilian Partner

To expand our refractories business in South America, Krosaki Harima Corporation (hereinafter referred to as "Krosaki") has established a joint venture (JV) in Brazil with Indústrias Brasileiras de Artigos Refratários-IBAR LTDA., the second largest Brazilian refractories manufacturer, in partnership with us since 2020 (headquartered in Poa, Sao Paulo, the Federal Republic of Brazil, hereinafter referred to as "IBAR"). This JV will focus on the production and sales of tap hole clay (THC*) for blast furnaces. We have already received the necessary anti-competition clearance from Brazilian authorities.

Since 2020, Krosaki has been closely collaborating with IBAR through a sales distribution agreement in 2020, and a technical support agreement in 2021. These collaborations have highlighted the combined competitiveness of our technologies in the Brazilian market, strengthened our relationship, and allowed us to effectively meet the market demand. By exporting high-quality products including THC from our global manufacturing site, Krosaki has been able to contribute to Brazilian steelmakers.

The new JV in Brazil in combination with our enhanced services across South America will enable us to deliver more value to our customers.

*THC is a clay-like refractory product used to seal the tap hole of a blast furnace after molten iron is discharged.