

**CSC rescue launched**

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Page 12

## Coalition formed to help restart mothballed Ohio steel bar mill

PITTSBURGH — A Cleveland-based management buyout firm is joining with Hatch Beddows and the management team of bankrupt CSC Ltd. to come up with a plan to restart the mothballed steel bar producer in Warren, Ohio.

By John E. Sacco

Renaissance Partners Inc., a leading management buyout firm, said that the newly formed coalition brings together the resources of management and steel industry strategists to formulate a plan to restart CSC.

Leo A. Keevican Jr., managing director of Renaissance Partners, said the coalition was "prepared to deploy the necessary resources in an extremely timely manner in order to forestall the looming liquidation of the CSC facility."

In addition to Hatch Beddows, the management consulting unit of Hatch Group and a consultant to the metals and mining industries, Renaissance Partners is being assisted by affiliates Doepken Keevican & Weiss and DKW Value Recovery.

Doepken Keevican & Weiss is providing labor and transaction legal advice while DKW Value Recovery is providing turnaround and business reorganization expertise.

"We are highly confident that this coalition will be successful

in formulating a business plan necessary to attract private equity to fund the restart of CSC," Keevican said.

CSC filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection Jan. 12 and has moved to phase out its operation since that time, putting 950 United Steelworkers union members and 170 salaried employees out of work.

The company has been unable to secure working capital to continue operations.

CSC tried to avoid bankruptcy and conserve cash earlier in January by changing production schedules (*AMM.com*, Jan. 9).

The specialty steel bar maker listed debts of \$259 million and assets of \$216 million when it filed for Chapter 11 creditor protection.

CSC was known as Copperweld Steel when it operated under bankruptcy protection between 1993 and 1995.

Eighteen other steel companies currently are in bankruptcy, with another three having emerged from Chapter 11 protection since late November 1998.

In late March, a ruling by a federal bankruptcy judge ended health-care benefits for 1,074 union workers at CSC and for about 540 company retirees, along with dependents.

The ruling also eliminated the company's supplemental unemployment benefit for laid-off workers.