

PITTSBURGH BUSINESS TIMES

Breaking News

August 31, 2001

Court gives Renaissance window to try to buy Warren steel mill

Christopher Davis

A federal bankruptcy judge has given Renaissance Partners Inc. until Oct. 1 to make a final offer to buy the shuttered CSC Ltd. steel bar mill in Warren, Ohio.

Renaissance Partners, a subsidiary of Pittsburgh-based DKW Law Group, wants to buy the mill from CSC, which is navigating through Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings.

The group had asked the judge for a 45-day extension to allow its investors to review a business plan for the mill before ruling whether CSC could shift to Chapter 7 liquidation proceedings and sell the facility in pieces.

George Petrenko, managing partner of DKW Value Recovery, said Renaissance Partners is working to finalize negotiations with the union representing workers at the plant and a restart could come within 60 days after closing the deal.

Renaissance Partners, which facilitates managed buyouts, is backed by two unnamed New York investors, DKW's managing partner, Leo Keevican, said previously. He estimated a restart would cost about \$50 million.

CSC, which is about \$89 million in debt, filed for bankruptcy protection from its creditors in January. However, it previously invested \$100 million in capital improvements into the plant, and Mr. Keevican said the investment group believes it can make the facility profitable again.

An attorney representing CSC had asked the judge to allow the mill to begin being sold in pieces or as a whole and CSC lenders would like the court to switch the Chapter 11 reorganization to a Chapter 7 liquidation.

At its height, the mill was producing about 300,000 tons of steel each year and generating about \$230 million in annual revenue. The bar-quality steel is used for gears and crankshafts, as well as other industrial applications.

"We'll probably get up to 150,000 tons of output by the end of the first year," Mr. Petrenko said.

The new management group, if it is able to purchase the plant, likely would employ 700 to 800 people. About 1,100 previously worked there.

MR. DAVIS may be contacted at cdavis@bizjournals.com.



Copyright 2001 American City Business Journals Inc.
[Click for permission to reprint \(PRC# 1.1658.477384\)](#)

All contents of this site © American City Business Journals Inc. All rights reserved.