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## CSC restart effort wins additional time

PITTSBURGH — A U.S. bankruptcy judge in Ohio has granted Renaissance Partners Inc. more time to wrap up its efforts to purchase and restart bankrupt CSC Ltd., a Warren, Ohio, steel bar producer.

By John E. Sacco

Judge William T. Bodoh last week gave the buyout specialist until Oct. 1 to complete its plan to reopen the shuttered plant.

George Petrenko, a principal of Renaissance Partners, said the deadline leaves time for the remaining due diligence and to negotiate a contract with the United Steelworkers union. About 950 steelworkers were employed by the mill, which closed in April.

The judge also ruled that no sale should be considered final and no transfer should be made prior to the close of business Oct. 1. He also approved procedures that CSC planned to utilize to solicit bids for portions or individual pieces of the company's plant.

"We're fairly well along," Petrenko said. "We should get a (union) membership understanding from the (United Steelworkers)."

Petrenko added that Renaissance Partners needed to round out its management team, conclude labor negotiations and fine tune its business plan. "Really, there is nothing negative in the judge's order," he said. "He was very fair, allowing for two different avenues."

Renaissance Partners has several equity partners willing to buy the mill and restart it, assuming the group can come up with a viable business plan that does not rely on securing federal loans. The new owners would likely seek some local and state assistance, but the bulk of the financing would come from private investors.

Petrenko was confident the Renaissance group would be able to make an offer by Oct. 1. Petrenko, who also is managing principal of newly formed restructuring firm DKW Value Recovery, which is helping Renaissance with the CSC matter, said the equity investor was a private equity fund that invested in distressed companies.

Renaissance Partners, a management buyout company, has participated in a number of deals since it was formed in 1988, including the buyout of American Alloys in West Virginia, where Renaissance Partners purchased a mining operation that had been closed for two years. It also conducted management buyouts of Standard Steel from Allegheny International and worked with Carl Valdiserri in his purchase of Rouge Steel Co., Dearborn, Mich., from Ford Motor Co.

Renaissance Partners operates out of Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Detroit.