

# Impressive research work at Aughinish

by Brian McLaughlin

RESEARCH work being carried out at the RUSAL Aughinish Alumina refinery on the Shannon Estuary has earned special recognition from the International body that represents the aluminium industry worldwide.

The Russian owned operation, which is the largest alumina refinery in Europe and contributes about €100million a year to the local economy, received a major endorsement from International Aluminium Institute (IAI) secretary general Ron Knapp during his recent visit to the West Limerick facility.

The Limerick Post has learned that the IAI is now prepared to co-fund research work at University of Limerick and at Aughinish regarding the greening and rehabilitation of the bauxite residue disposal area covering a large area of land on the island. There are millions of tons of bauxite at the site and the IAI is supporting the research project so that the information

can be made available to the aluminium industry globally.

Headed up by Limerick man Damien Clancy, RUSAL Aughinish is a member of the London based IAI which is the global forum of the aluminium industry. It represents more than 80 per cent of world's aluminium producers.

And the IAI endorsement was followed up by another glowing endorsement – this time from RUSAL's own

director of production systems, Dmitriy Bondarenko who said it was the best plant he had seen in the last three years. He said he was impressed during a three day visit by the amount and quality of training programmes available at the refinery and added that Aughinish had a lot to offer the whole RUSAL family.

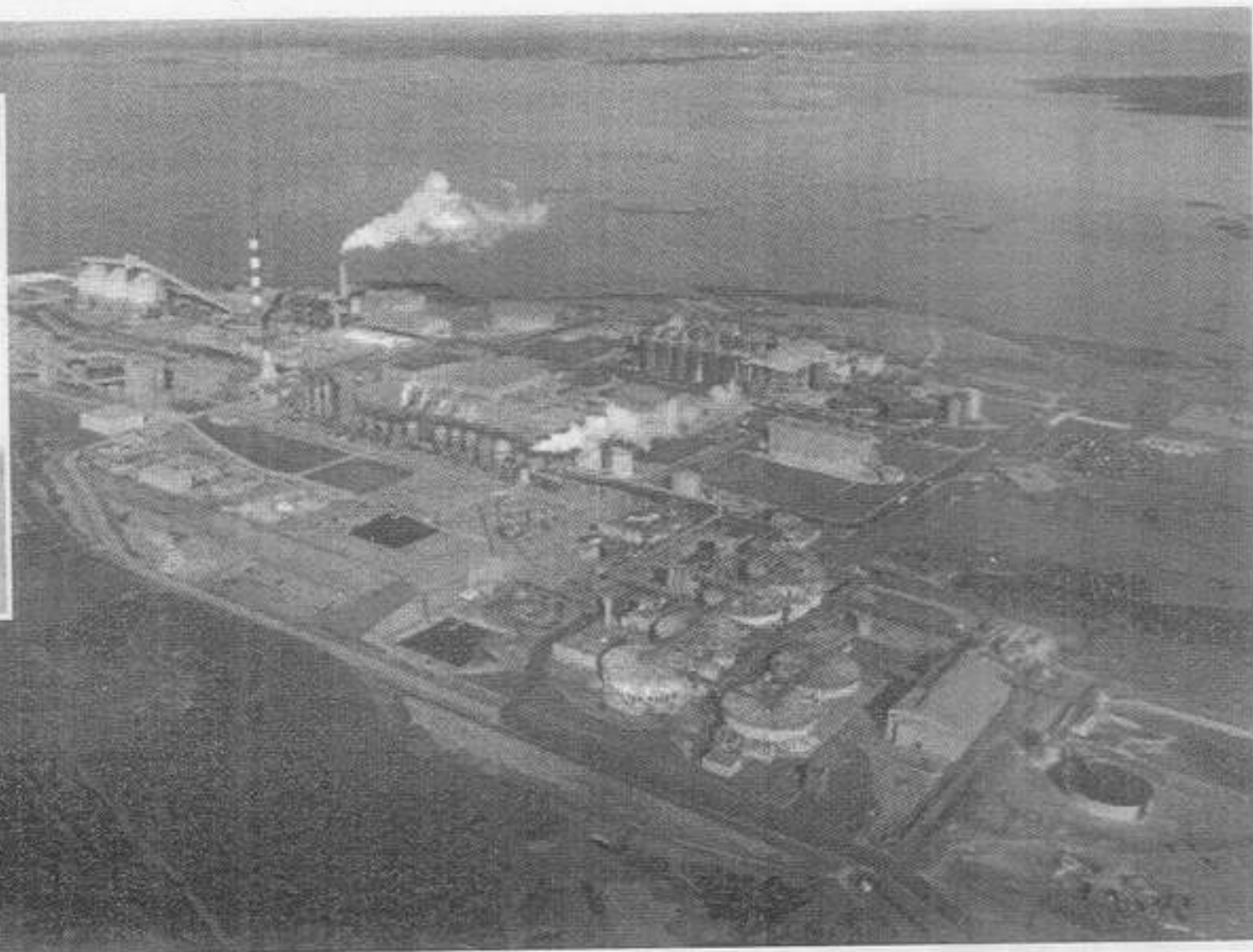
The plant start-up was in September 1983 and it was the largest construction project in Europe employing up

to 6,500 workers. Today it employs several hundred permanent employees and contractors.

The company has planted tens of thousands of trees around Aughinish Island. It has established a bird sanctuary, a nature trail network incorporating bird hides and observation areas as well as butterfly and dragonfly sanctuaries that are the first of their kind in Ireland or the UK.



Damien Clancy,  
RUSAL Aughinish.



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