



## PRESS RELEASE



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### Alba Chief Executive highlights pioneering role of both Bahrain and France in the aluminium industry

- Alba Chief Executive was invited as a guest speaker at the Bahraini-French Business Club Dinner held on Monday, January 17, 2011 at the Golden Tulip Hotel.
- Alba Chief Executive praised France's role as a pioneer in the aluminium manufacturing process and supported stronger business ties between Bahrain and France.
- The Bahraini French Business Club organises monthly dinner meetings during which important decision makers and leading industry experts are invited as guest speakers.

Aluminium Bahrain B.S.C. (Alba)'s support for stronger business ties between Bahrain and France as well as increased collaboration between Alba and other French companies was emphasised during a presentation given by Alba's Chief Executive, Laurent Schmitt at the Bahraini-French Business Club Dinner held on Monday, January 17, 2011 at the Golden Tulip Hotel, Bahrain.

The Bahraini French Business Club – or, Club d'Affaires Franco Bahreïnien (CAFB) – organises monthly dinner meetings for its members during which important decision makers, leading industry experts and top-ranking business officials are invited as guest speakers.

Alba's Chief Executive, Laurent Schmitt praised France's role as a pioneer in the development of the aluminium manufacturing process, and highlighted Bahrain's own position as a pioneer in the growth of the aluminium industry in the region. He further elaborated on systems and processes being introduced in Alba to strengthen the company's position as a globally competitive smelter, enabling it to meet the challenges facing the industry.

Commenting on his address at the Bahraini French Business Club, Mr. Schmitt added:

"In the past year and half, Alba has done tremendous work in strengthening operational efficiency all across the plant, boost cost reduction, initiate continuous improvement programmes, and encourage greater transparency. It was a pleasure to share Alba's experience with members of the Bahraini French Business Club, and discuss how the company succeeded in meeting its various challenges.

“Alba has built strong ties with customers not only in France but also across Europe. Today, we export nearly 10 per cent of our products to the European community and are keen on further capitalising on the opportunities available in this captive market. Alba also has strong historical ties with major French technology producers who have brought state-of-the-art technology to Alba in the power generation and metal production facilities.”

The Bahraini French Business Club was established in 2001 for business professionals with an ambition of building a strong relationship between Bahrain and France. Initiated by the Trade Commission of the French Embassy and a group of Bahraini business officials, the Club d’Affaires Franco Bahreïnien (CAFB) is a non-profit local association under Bahraini law providing a platform where Bahraini and French business personnel and corporate houses can interact with and exchange effective trade, legal, business and cultural dialogues. The club boasts of nearly 140 members belonging to a wide spectrum of expertise within the economy and hosts monthly gatherings where top ranking business personnel, important decision makers and leading industry experts are invited as guest speakers.

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Note:

Alba has been consistently ranked as one of the largest aluminium smelters in the world, and is known for its technological strength, global competitiveness and innovative policies. Alba produces more than 850,000 metric tonnes per annum of aluminium which meet or exceed the industry standard for purity, with products including standard and T-ingots, extrusion billets, rolling slab, propriety ingots, and molten aluminium. It has also maintained a strong track record of operational safety and environmental compliance.

Photo Caption:

*Alba Chief Executive, Laurent Schmitt addresses the Bahraini French Business Club Dinner, which was held on January 17, 2011, at the Golden Tulip Hotel.*

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