

BCS acquiring carbon wire line of Ugitech

By Philip Burgert

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CHICAGO -- Cold-heading quality wire producer BCS Industries LLC, Memphis, Tenn., has agreed to purchase the carbon cold-heading wire product line of Ugitech USA, a subsidiary of Schmolz+Bickenbach AG, Düsseldorf, Germany, for an undisclosed price.

Keith Martin, vice president of sales and marketing at BCS, said in a telephone interview that the deal includes the acquisition of an approximately 30,000-square-foot distribution facility that Ugitech operates in Batavia, Ill.

Ugitech is currently in the process of replacing that facility with a greenfield stainless bar mill facility in Batavia that started product deliveries earlier this summer and is scheduled for completion in the fall.

"Ugitech has decided to get out of the carbon steel bar business," Martin said, adding that BCS plans to maintain the business that has operated at the Batavia site for more than 20 years, starting as Chicago Wire and continuing under other names before Ugitech entered the U.S. market as Ugine Stainless & Alloys Inc. in the 1990s.

"We identified the need for this strategic acquisition some time ago," Martin said, adding that his company's three wire production facilities in Tennessee and Ohio plan to become larger suppliers to the Illinois plant's just-in-time distribution to Midwest fastener manufacturers and other customers over time.