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## Novel Design of Iron Ore Pellets For Direct Reduction Process

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SAUDI IRON & STEEL COMPANY (HADEED)

# NOVEL DESIGN OF IRON ORE PELLETS FOR DIRECT REDUCTION PROCESS

OCTOBER 2024

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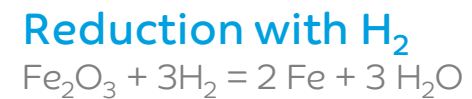
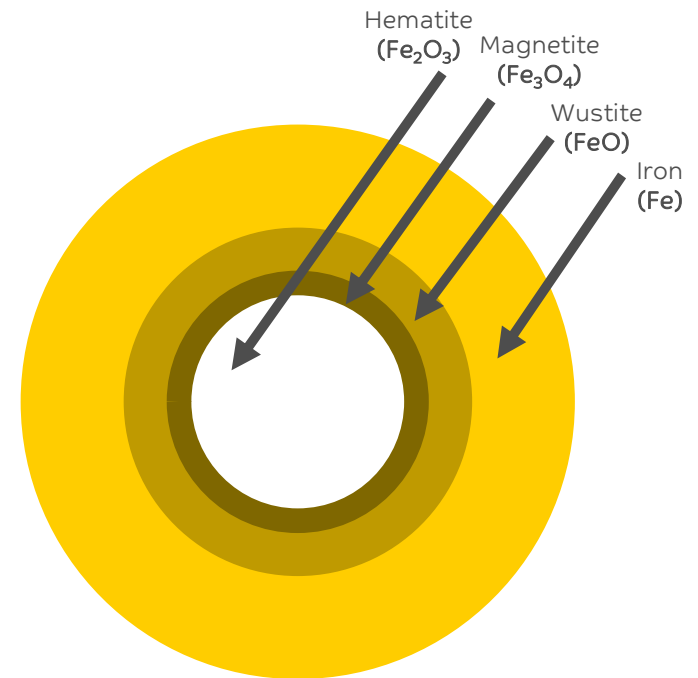
14 - 15 October 2024 | Doha - Qatar





## INTRODUCTION

- HIGH REDUCIBILITY**  
is one of the desired properties of iron oxide pellets for DR processes.
- REDUCIBILITY MECHANISM**  
is controlled by gas diffusion and chemical reaction.
- EXPECTED CHALLENGE**  
is reduction of the core part due to reducing gas penetration and chemical reaction progress.



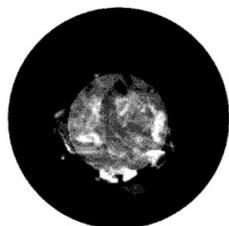
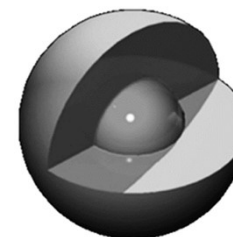
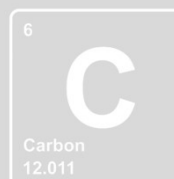


## SCOPE OF WORK

01

### CARBON ADDITION

Produce core/shell pellets with excess C in the core



### PELLET FIRING

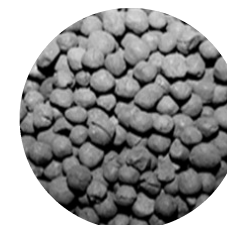
Porosity of core part will be increased in fired pellets

02

03

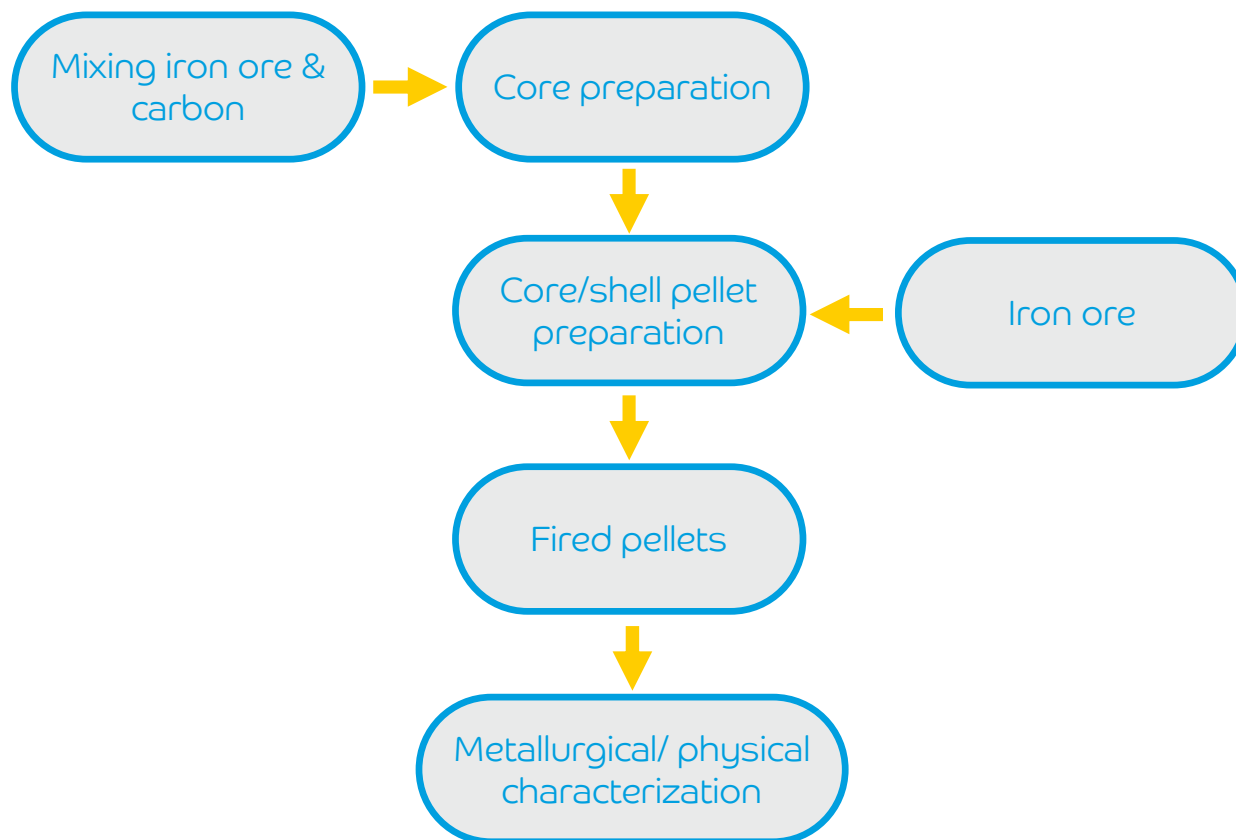
### THE RESULT

Improved reducibility: Save Gas Consumption and Gain Higher Productivity





## EXPERIMENTAL WORK



## NOTES

- Semi-pilot study was conducted through highly qualified third party (SGA, Germany)
- Pellet feed: 68.0 % Fe
- Core/shell thickness: 25-75 / 75-25 % diameter
- Carbon % : 0 - 9 wt% from the core mixture
- Firing profile



## EXPERIMENTAL WORK



1

Mixing the content of core/shell pellet.



2

Rotating disc pelletizer.



3

Exact shape of core part.



4

Exact shape of core/shell Novel pellet.



## RESULTS & DISCUSSION



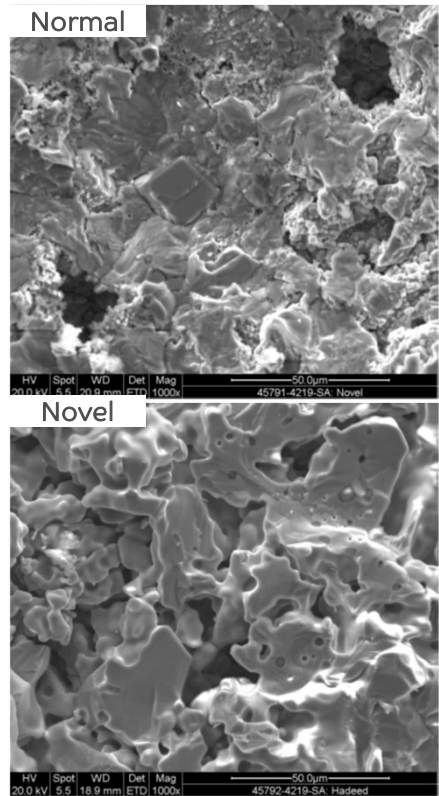
Visual observation for cross section from fired core/shell pellet

### FIRED PELLETS

Fe	67.8%
acidic	≤ 2.0
basic	< 1.0

### CHARACTERIZATION

Tumbler test	(ISO-3271)
Crushing strength	(ISO-4700)
Sticking test	(ISO-11256)
Linder test	(ISO-11257)
Red. test	(ISO-11258)



SEM photo for core part from fired pellet



## RESULTS & DISCUSSION

### GREEN PELLETS

#### Characterization

	Ref.	Novel pellet	Standard
Drop number	8.0	5.0-10.0	4.0
Shock temp.(°C)	340	325-405	300
Green strength [daN/p]	1.5	1.4-1.8	1.0
Dry strength [daN/p]	5.3	5.0-6.5	4.0

### FIRED PELLETS

#### Physical Characterization

	Ref.	Novel pellet	Standard
Tumbler-strength (%)	96.0	92.3-95.9	90.0 min
Abrasion (%)	3.6	3.5-4.6	5.0 max
Crushing strength [daN/p]	311	156-351	250 min

### FIRED PELLETS

#### Metallurgical Characterization

	Ref.	Novel pellet	Standard
Cluster index	2.5	1.8-5.7	0 after 10 rev.
RDI (%)	1.1	0.8-1.1	2.0 max
Met.(%)	93.6	93.7-94.6	93.0
Reducibility R <sub>40</sub> /R <sub>90</sub> (%/min)	1.6/0.29	1.6/0.3 - 1.72/0.31	







## RESULTS & DISCUSSION

### FIRED PELLETS

Optimum Results

Optimum results	Novel pellet
Tumbler-s (%)	95.9
Abrasion (%)	3.5
CCS [daN/p]	351
C.I. (%)	5.0
RDI (%)	0.8
Met.(%)	94.6 
R <sub>40</sub> /R <sub>90</sub> (%/min)	1.72/0.31 



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# BASKET TEST



HIGHER MET.  
**+2.8%**



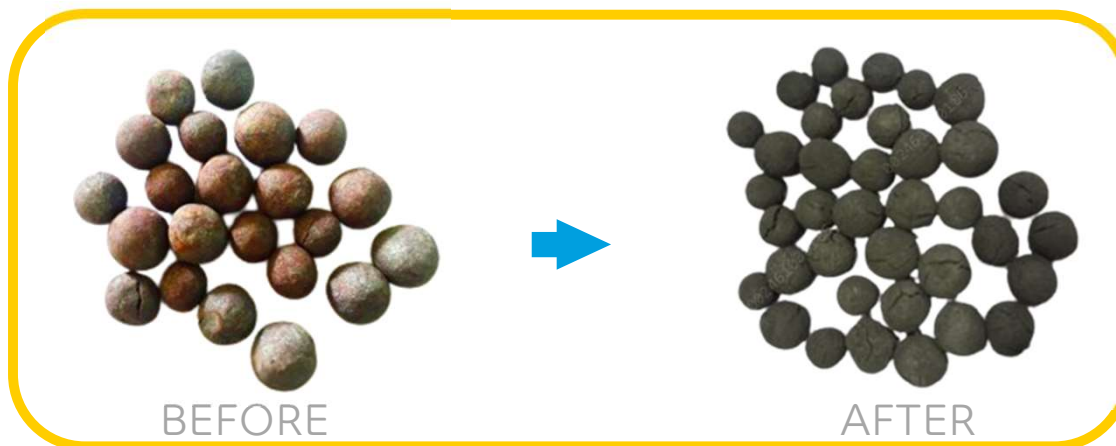
HIGHER CARBON  
**+1.0%** **+11.0%**  
(Carbon) (Fe<sub>3</sub>C)



NO CLUSTER



LOWER  
DISINTEGRATION



BEFORE

AFTER



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## CONCLUSIONS: CORE/SHELL DESIGN

### COMPARED TO NORMAL PELLET

It exhibits favorable physical & metallurgical properties:

- Higher metallization
- Higher carbon content
- Higher DRI productivity
- Energy saving (NG & Elec.)
- No special handling needed

### VALIDATION/TRIALS

- The promised characterization of the Novel pellets was validated by basket test at Hadeed Company
- Preparation for full plant trial at Hadeed is ongoing

### BENEFITS

Expected Potential Benefits at DRP and steel plant is **11.2 M\$/yr**

Two Granted Patents

- (1) #10,214,788B2
- (2) #105934526

A black and white photograph of several vertical, ribbed metal rods, possibly rebar, with the text "THANK YOU" overlaid in white. The rods are arranged in a row, with the one on the right being in sharp focus and the others blurred in the background. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the ribs.

THANK YOU