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Converter Revamping: There's Life in the Old Dog Yet...

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Even in our future, green industry, many steel producers will continue to rely on the BOF process for the liquid side of their production route. The steel plant of the future is a hybrid plant and with its small carbon footprint, large scale and capability for producing the most challenging steel qualities, the BOF converter shop will remain a major capacity hub in many future plant configurations.

Traditionally, converter vessels have been designed and built as part of the larger scale BOF shop. This still holds true in the case of greenfield plants. Mature steel producers, through their decades of experience, have come to develop requirements specific to their individual process and plant conditions, maintenance practices and lifetime targets. Today, plant transition scenarios may add additional—individual—requirements. Each of these requirements translate into design features such as vessel material selection, cooling system design, improved trunnion ring arrangements, condition monitoring tools, etc. The present article elaborates the latest developments in this respect.

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