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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Commissioning successfully completed**

#### **Four-strand continuous bloom caster modernized at Volzhsky**

The four-strand continuous bloom caster No. 1 at the Volzhsky Pipe Plant Works of the TMK Group near Volgograd in Russia has been put into operation successfully and punctually following a thorough modernization by SMS Demag AG, Germany.

The modernization has increased the annual production and brought the product quality into line with the heightened market requirements. SMS Demag has worked out a modernization concept which embraces those components of the continuous caster which are essential for maximum production and quality.

The supply scope includes the complete mould and oscillating area, comprising the mould itself, in cassette design, the stirrer and resonance oscillation system, the modernization of the spray cooling system and the hydraulic withdrawal and straightener adjustment.

The supply scope also contains a torch-cutting unit and the modernization of the automation system at Level 1 for the mechanical equipment supplied. The mould and oscillating area is designed such that in addition to the section sizes 150 to 228 mm diameter it will be possible in the future to cast round sections up to 400 mm and square sections from 150 x 150 mm to 360 x 360 mm. The annual capacity is around 650,000 tons.

The Volzhsky Works manufactures pipe-steel grades for the oil and gas industry, part of which is intended also for export.

SMS Demag AG forms part of the Metallurgical Plant and Rolling Mill Technology Business Area of the SMS group.

(26 lines with max. 55 letters)

SMS GmbH is the holding for a group of companies internationally active in plant construction and mechanical engineering relating to the processing of steel, non-ferrous metals and plastics. The group is divided into the Business Areas of Metallurgical Plant and Rolling Mill Technology, Tube, Long Product and Forging Technology and Plastics Technology. In the year 2004 some 9,500 employees worldwide generated a turnover of about EUR 2.20 bn.