

PRESS RELEASE

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51 percent acquired in Austrian chemical plant maker **SMS Demag acquires majority interest in Dependeq**

SMS Demag AG has acquired 51 percent of the shares in Dependeq Industrial Plant Engineering GmbH with head office in Vienna. The company, which in the 2005 fiscal year generated sales of around EUR 10 million with 15 employees, will henceforth be conducting business under the firm name of SMS Demag Process Technologies GmbH and will be located within the Strip Processing Lines Division of SMS Demag as a competence centre for push-pull pickling lines and acid regeneration plants as well as for automation in process engineering.

Already since 2001, SMS Demag and Dependeq have been working together closely on the basis of a cooperation agreement in the field of hydrochloric acid recovery.

SMS Demag is thus reinforcing its presence in the area of industrial process engineering and, through the acquisition, expects to make efficient use of synergies in the planning, execution and commissioning of process-engineering plant components.

The Managing Directors of the new company are Herbert Weissenbaeck and Horst Krenn, who founded the Dependeq company in the year 2000.

SMS Demag AG forms part of the Metallurgical Plant and Rolling Mill Technology Business Area of the SMS group. (23 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.