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PRESS RELEASE

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Mechanical, electrical and automation systems

from SMS Demag AG

CSP[®] facility at Jisco produces its first coil

On May 14, 2006, at 16:00 h local time, after a very short commissioning period, the first hot strip coil was successfully produced on the new CSP[®] plant at Jiuquan Iron & Steel Group Co. Ltd. (Jisco), PR China. This facility had been supplied by SMS Demag, Germany, including the electrical systems, drive engineering and all automation systems. Only a short time later, a second coil was manufactured which was already saleable. The production is now being run up to speed. The hot commissioning is scheduled for completion in October 2006.

The short commissioning period was made possible by the "Plug & Work" concept developed at SMS Demag. Plug & Work had already enabled the plant functions and the dynamic behavior to be displayed by means of a simulation computer, along with the testing and preliminary optimization of the complete automation system, with all control cabinets and control desks, for subsequent local implementation at the site. The CSP[®] facility was thus able to commence production without problems after only a few commissioning tests.

Jiuquan Iron & Steel, in Jiayuguan, Province of Gansu, had ordered the CSP[®] facility in 2004 as part of the technological modernization of the steelworks, the continuous casting operations and the rolling mill as well as the re-alignment of the product range. The plant is designed for an annual capacity of over two million tons of hot strip and is able to produce strips in widths of 950 to 1,680 mm and thicknesses of 1.0 to 12.7 mm.

The Jisco CSP[®] plant comprises two thin-slab casters with downstream soaking furnaces, a six-stand finishing mill with laminar cooling section, coiler and coil removal equipment.

SMS Demag has already built 25 CSP[®] facilities and is a leader in the field of thin-slab casting-rolling technology.

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

(34 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 2005 some 9,250 employees worldwide generated a turnover of about EUR 2.33 bn.