

PRESS RELEASE

Düsseldorf, September 19, 2006

Successful commissioning

First coil at Hydro Aluminium Slim after only 16 months

On May 5, 2006, after a delivery period of only 16 months, Hydro Aluminium Slim S.p.A. in Cisterna di Latina, Italy, successfully rolled the first coil on the aluminum cold rolling mill supplied by SMS Demag AG, Germany.

The SMS Demag supply scope contained a compact four-high cold rolling mill inclusive of plant logistics, utility systems and a rolling oil unit with an SMS Demag Multi-Plate rolling oil filter. The mill reduces aluminum strip from a maximum of 8.0 mm at the entry end to a minimum of 0.2 mm at the exit end, with a maximum strip width of 1,760 mm. The stand operates with a rolling force of 16,000 kN, and the maximum rolling speed is 1,200 m/min.

An inline trimming shear is installed in the entry section of the mill stand. This shear caters for the large thickness range from 4.0 mm to 0.4 mm at a maximum inlet speed of 450 m/min and can be utilized for the complete range of alloys.

An inline strip inspection system for materials with highly sensitive surfaces is realized by means of a retractable inspection platform in the region of the recoiler. This enables the operator to inspect the strip visually and thus ensure that the strip has a high surface quality.

The rolling mill is equipped with an automatic spool and coil handling system. This coil handling system is also integrated into the customer's own high-bay storage logistics.

SMS Demag has also supplied the complete automation for the aluminum cold rolling mill. By means of a full-scale integration test, all of the drive and control systems were checked before commissioning started.

In addition to the usual control systems, the rolling mill is equipped with an HES system (Hot Edge Spray) with a view to achieving high quality, as part of the scope of the flatness control system and under consideration of the specific material behavior of thin-gage aluminum strip.

The aluminum cold rolling mill is characterized by a high standard of safety, satisfying not only the statutory regulations but also the strict requirements of the customer. Through the construction of the new rolling mill, Hydro Aluminium Slim gains the ability to produce strips of enhanced quality in keeping with the increasing demands of the market. At the same time, the capacity can be raised to 100,000 tpy, depending on the product mix.

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

(42 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.