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PRESS RELEASE

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Order for SMS Demag AG

CVRD places order for world's largest ferro-nickel smelting furnaces

Mineração Onça Puma Ltda. of Brazil (a full subsidiary of CVRD) has awarded SMS Demag, Germany, an order for the installation of the two largest ferro-nickel smelting furnaces in the world. The plant is designed for an annual production of 275,000 t of FeNi.

The two rectangular submerged-arc and smelting furnaces are 36.4 x 13.4 meters in dimension and have a nominal furnace capacity of 85 MW each.

A technically sophisticated copper-plate cooling system enables operation at a high power density and at high slag temperatures. A similar rectangular FeNi furnace is already successfully operating in New Caledonia. Further design features, such as the well-known, reliable electrode column system and the AC thyristor-controlled electrode current control system, guarantee flexible operation with low maintenance and long furnace campaigns.

The scope of supply for the furnaces includes the basic and detail engineering as well as the supply of the calcinating material handling system, the gas lines including a dust collecting facility for each furnace as well as the requisite auxiliary facilities, such as taphole guns and drills.

The commissioning of the furnaces has been scheduled for the second half of 2008. The second furnace will be put into operation three months after the commissioning of the first furnace.

The world's two largest furnaces constitute a new milestone in the 100 years of Submerged Arc Furnace technology at SMS Demag.

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

(29 lines with max. 55 letters)