

PRESS RELEASE

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Modernization order for SMS Demag AG

Bilstein modernizes four-stand tandem mill

Bilstein GmbH & Co. KG, of Hagen-Hohenlimburg, Germany, has awarded to SMS Demag, Germany, the modernization order for the four-stand tandem mill. This facility is used for the roughing and finish-rolling not only of hot-rolled structural steels but also of case-hardening and quenched and tempered steel grades and even highly work-hardened special steels.

The all-round solution provided by the modernization package and comprising the mechanical equipment, technology and electrical and automation systems was the decisive factor for Bilstein to award the contract to SMS Demag. The aims of the modernization are to increase the production, improve the product quality, enhance the flexibility during production and establish a new operating concept.

In order to revamp the mill to a standard which extends beyond the current state of the art, new servo-hydraulic control systems are to be provided for roll-gap adjustment and roll bending, as well as roll-gap lubrication dependent on strip width and the DS (Dry Strip) system for strip drying, patented by SMS Demag. Further important elements of

the SMS Demag supply are equipment for stabilizing the strip tension in the entry and exit sections of the rolling mill and new electrical drive and control equipment. The technological optimization of the tandem mill is made possible by a new process model package and by modern open-and closed-loop control systems.

Punctual revamping with minimized risk is ensured by the extensive measures implemented under the Plug & Work concept. Plug & Work allows plant functions and dynamic behavior to be displayed by means of a simulation computer, and the complete automation system with all of the control cabinets and control desks, which will later be installed at the site, can be tested and optimized at a very early stage.

Plant modernization will take place during four regular shutdowns and will be completed at the time of the winter shutdown 2008.

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

(35 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.