

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Düsseldorf, November 28, 2006

### **Essar Steel puts India's most modern continuous caster into operation**

The Hazira operations of Essar Steel Ltd., India, successfully commissioned a continuous caster built and supplied by SMS Demag AG, Germany.

The caster produces slabs in widths of up to 2,000 mm and a thickness of 220 or 260 mm. It is designed for an annual production of 1.8 million t of steel.

The technological equipment comprises the adjustable mold with hydraulic oscillation, Mold Level Control (MLC), hydraulically adjustable segments for Dynamic Soft Reduction and Level 2 automation.

Essar Steel is using the caster to produce high-quality heavy-plate and tube-steel grades (up to API x80) as well as IF and ULC (ultra-low-carbon) steel grades.

In Hazira, Essar Steel operates the largest integrated steelworks in the west of India, with an annual production of 4.6 million t of steel.

SMS Demag AG forms part of the Metallurgical Plant and Rolling Mill

Technology Business Area of the SMS group.

(18 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.