

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Düsseldorf, December 12, 2006

### Successful commissioning in Russia

#### **The first of two continuous casters goes into operation at the TMK Group**

In an official ceremony, the Russian firm of Taganrog Metallurgical Works (Tagmet) celebrated the first cast on the five-strand continuous bloom caster supplied by SMS Demag AG, Germany.

The caster at the Taganrog location (near Rostov) produces blooms in the round sizes from 150 to 400 mm diameter and completely supersedes the ingot casting units used previously.

This results in lower production costs and a higher quality of the round billets. The annual capacity of the plant is around 950,000 t.

The machine head is equipped with a parabolic mold, with stirrers and with the resonance oscillator developed and patented by SMS Demag. It can also be used with square molds in the section sizes 150 mm x 150 mm to 340 mm x 340 mm.

The supply scope further includes the torch-cutting and sample-cutting machine as well as the stamping machine.

The works of the TMK Group manufacture tube-steel grades for the oil and gas industry, and some of these are intended for export.

The Russian TMK Group had placed the order with SMS Demag for the supply of two identically designed continuous casters and for the modernization of another four-strand continuous bloom caster.

The modernized caster had already been taken successfully into operation in January 2006 at the Volzhsky Pipe Plant in Volgograd.

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

(26 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.