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PRESS RELEASE

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Order for SMS Demag AG

ThyssenKrupp Steel modernizes the Beeckerwerth hot strip mill

ThyssenKrupp Steel AG, Germany, has awarded to SMS Demag, Germany, an order for the modernization of the Beeckerwerth hot strip mill.

In addition to the revamping of finishing stands F1 and F2, the order comprises the supply of three new, fully hydraulic downcoilers.

In the finishing stands F1 and F2, the maximum rolling force will be increased from 38 to 42 MN by the installation of new hydraulic adjustment cylinders. We are also supplying new backup roll chocks and Morgoil® bearings. The new facilities have already been designed to allow for a further increase in the maximum rolling force, which is to take place at a later date.

A further element in the modernization is the installation of CVC® (Continuously Variable Crown) into F1. Thus, all stands of the finishing mill will now be equipped with CVC® systems. This, together with a new model for profile, contour and flatness control (PCFC), will enable the strip quality to be improved further, particularly for harder steel grades.

The supply scope also includes the renewal of the drive train at stand F1 by fitting a new gear set for the main gear unit, a new mill pinion gear unit and Sieflex gear spindles. The signals for plant monitoring will be supplied by vibration and torque measurement sensors.

Simultaneously with the finishing mill revamping, the downcoiler unit will be completely renewed by the provision of three fully hydraulic downcoilers. These downcoilers are designed for the coiling of high-strength pipe grades of up to 25.4 mm thickness.

For our customer, ThyssenKrupp Steel, these investments are important modules for further increasing the annual capacity of the high-performance hot strip mill and for expanding the product range to include high-strength steels and pipe grades.

Together with ThyssenKrupp Steel, SMS Demag has developed a revamping concept which will fit in with the scheduled short-term and long-term shutdowns. This will make any further shutdowns unnecessary for the modernization work. Commissioning of the new facilities is scheduled for the middle of 2008.

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

(39 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.