

# SMS group

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Strong growth at SMS group**

The SMS group, Düsseldorf, Germany, has expanded its order intake in the past year to more than EUR 3.2 billion. This increase is mostly due to vigorous global performance in the steel industry, where investment is booming.

Yet the order markets served by the SMS group, such as the hardening and forging industry, the nonferrous metal producing industry and the plastics processing industry, have also developed well. And it was the first time in years that the order intake from Germany, at some 13 percent of overall order intake, indicated a modest recovery on the domestic market.

The most important sales regions for SMS remain China, Russia and India. But other countries embarking on industrialization or an extensive modernization phase also contributed to the increased order volume. Despite the excellent business situation over the past year, industry in the traditional steel regions of North America, western Europe and Japan invested merely at a normal rate.

However, these countries are facing growing pressure from the new plants in developing nations and will have to invest in revamps to retain their competitiveness.

Significant alongside the good results in classic mechanical engineering at SMS are the growth areas electrical systems, automation and services. They also contributed to the healthy order intake. The group's longstanding policy of supplying customers not only with machines but with all-inclusive production systems backed up by maintenance is becoming ever more important for its business success.

The company's trainee quota in Germany is around 8 percent of the workforce, or much higher than the industry average. Close cooperation with schools and universities, the SMS student support scheme, special introduction programs for young engineers and the newly formed SMS Akademie with a broad range of educational content for all employees provide ample evidence of the high value the company places on training and further education.

(34 lines with max. 55 letters)

SMS GmbH is the holding of 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 around 9,250 employees worldwide generated a turnover of about EUR 2.33 bn.