

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Düsseldorf, March 15, 2007

### **Wuhan Iron & Steel commences production with the continuous annealing line**

Wuhan Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. (WISCO) in Wuhan, China, has successfully produced the first coil on the continuous annealing line supplied by SMS Demag AG, Germany.

The continuous annealing line at Wuhan is designed for the production of strip in widths of 900 to 2,080 mm and in gages of 0.3 to 2.5 mm. An annual production of 990,000 t is generated with a maximum process speed of 450 m/min.

The steel strips in the grades ULC (IF), HSS, BH, DP, PMK and TRIP with low carbon content are utilized mainly in the automotive industry and for the manufacture of domestic appliances.

The SMS Demag supply scope comprises not only the mechanical and process-engineering equipment but also the Drever vertical furnace with modern annealing and cooling technology.

The essential process stages include strip degreasing, recrystallization annealing with controlled strip cooling, and skin-passing to obtain differing degrees of surface roughness and controlled elongation. The trimming shear cuts the strip to the required final width. The strip surface is oiled electrostatically.

The inline six-high skin-pass mill stand is equipped with hydraulic adjustment, work-roll and intermediate-roll bending, and intermediate-roll axial shifting with CVC plus<sup>®</sup> technology. High quality grades can thus be achieved for the products and, in conjunction with the flatness measurement system, WISCO obtains very good results as regards strip flatness and surface quality with these facilities. The fully automated work-roll and intermediate-roll changing device allows very quick roll changing to be performed without interrupting continuous operation in the process section of the plant.

An inspection loop accumulator makes it possible to bring the exit section to a complete halt to allow visual inspection of the strip surface without needing to stop the mill stand. The special technology of the trimming shear with its rotating shear housings enables the knives to be changed while the strip is running. The DUMA oiling machine is able to apply two different types of oil.

(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 on the one hand into the Business Areas SMS Demag and SMS Meer under SMS metallurgy and, on the other hand, into the Business Area SMS Plastics Technology. In the year 2005 some 9,250 employees worldwide generated a turnover of about EUR 2.33 bn.