

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Düsseldorf, July 13, 2007

### **Successful commissioning**

#### **Two continuous casters taken into operation at Masteel**

At Maanshan Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. (Masteel), China, SMS Demag AG, a company of the SMS group, Germany, has taken two two-strand continuous slab casters into operation, successfully and punctually.

The casters are designed for the joint production of 5.7 million t of flat products each year. With a casting speed of up to 2.2 m/min, they cast slabs in widths between 950 and 2,150 mm and thicknesses of 230 and 250 mm. Except for the horizontal section, the casters are of identical design and differ only in respect of their machine length.

The SMS Demag supply scope comprised the engineering, the mechanical equipment and the X-Pact<sup>®</sup> electrical and automation systems including the metallurgical process models (Level 2), the erection and erection schedule supervision and the commissioning.

The Intelligent Slab Casting<sup>®</sup> package from SMS Demag comprises several technological features that are decisive for quality and production and have been integrated into the facilities at Masteel:

The CYBERLINK<sup>®</sup> segments allow Dynamic Soft Reduction to be performed. This ensures high internal quality of the slabs through minimization of center segregations and suppression of central porosity.

By interacting with the hydraulic resonance oscillation, the highly dynamic mold level control system achieves a continuously good surface quality.

The Integrated Production Quality System IPQS<sup>®</sup> safeguards the slab quality through the monitoring of all relevant measured data.

High plant availability and short non-productive times are ensured by the mold monitoring system with breakout prediction system and width adjustment of the mold during casting.

A considerably shorter commissioning phase was able to be realized thanks to the “Plug & Work” concept from SMS Demag.

For this, the entire automation system was set up in the SMS Demag test center long before commissioning and then tested and pre-configured under near-real conditions by means of plant-specific simulation software.

Only the fine adjustment then had to be performed locally at the customer's during commissioning.

On the casters, Masteel casts sophisticated grades for the automotive and construction industries, for bridge building, power plants and for tube and pipe production.

(41 lines with max. 55 letters)

SMS group is, under the roof of the holding SMS GmbH, a group of companies internationally active in plant construction and mechanical engineering for the steel and nonferrous metals industry. It essentially consists of the two Business Areas SMS Demag and SMS Meer, which jointly form SMS metallurgy. In 2006, some 9,000 employees worldwide generated a turnover of about EUR 2.8 bn.