

PRESS RELEASE

Düsseldorf, December 19, 2007

Cooperation with Linde AG in the field of REBOX®-DFI

On October 30, 2007, SMS Demag AG, a company of the SMS group, Germany, concluded a cooperation agreement with Linde AG, Germany, for the exclusive marketing of the REBOX®-DFI process in continuous annealing furnaces to be newly erected for strip processing lines. Revamping work on existing plant will continue to be carried out by Linde AG.

The REBOX®-DFI process has been developed by Linde AG and involves the very rapid heating of the strip in the continuous furnace. It is based on Linde AG's many years of experience in the field of combustion of fuels using pure oxygen and the application of this in furnaces employed in the steel industry. The process is not only characterized by the extremely fast heating of the steel strip but also, to a very large extent, cleans the strip surface both of residual oil and of solid particles arising from the production process. Strip cleaning upstream of the furnace can thus be greatly simplified or even dispensed with altogether. Besides making it easily possible to significantly increase the production capacity of a strip processing line, the new process offers a great deal of potential as regards economic efficiency and quality.

The REBOX®-DFI process is already being used successfully in several facilities, e. g. at ThyssenKrupp Steel and Outokumpu Stainless.

(23 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 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.