

**PRESS RELEASE**

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New LCR technology introduced into CSP<sup>®</sup> facility:

**LCR plus dynamic thickness reduction successfully commissioned at Maanshan Iron & Steel (Masteel)**

Maanshan Iron & Steel (Masteel), Anhui, China, and SMS Siemag AG, Germany, have successfully modernized the two single-strand CSP<sup>®</sup> facilities (Compact Strip Production) at Masteel.

The introduction of LCR plus, the further development of Liquid Core Reduction (LCR), makes it possible obtain an enlarged thickness range of 90 to 60 mm (previously 90 to 72 mm) as well as a high utilization of the strand guide length (metallurgical length) of 9,705 mm.

"With LCR plus, Maanshan Iron & Steel is now able to roll all steel grades flexibly within one sequence", explains Chen You Gen, Senior Technical Manager of the Steel Plant and Rolling Mill No. 1.

Gao Hai Cao, Director of the Steel Plant and Rolling Mill, continues: "The CSP<sup>®</sup> facility at Maanshan Iron & Steel is thus the first plant worldwide on which a 30-mm thickness reduction with liquid core has been carried out."

The two single-strand CSP<sup>®</sup> facilities for Maanshan Iron & Steel were erected by SMS Siemag in 2003. The production capacity in 2007 and 2008 was around 2.3 million tpy, comprising hot-rolled wide strip for the manufacture of hot and cold strip. LCR plus is the result of research and development and of industrial trials in close cooperation between SMS Siemag and Maanshan Iron & Steel.

(23 lines with max. 55 letters)

SMS Siemag AG is a company of the SMS group, which 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 Siemag and SMS Meer. In 2008, some 8,900 employees worldwide generated a turnover of more than EUR 3.6 bn.