

PRESSE-INFORMATION

Düsseldorf, July 8, 2010

New DC technology from SMS Siemag

Kazchrome places an order for a new ferrochrome works

SMS Siemag, Germany, has received an order from TNK Kazchrome JSC, Kazakhstan, to build a new ferrochrome works in that country. The works (Meltshop No. 4) will be erected at the Aktobe location. The planned annual production is around 440,000 t of ferrochrome with high carbon content (H.C. FeCr). The melting unit will comprise four direct-current (DC) furnaces with a capacity of 72 MW each. Commissioning of the first furnace is scheduled for the end of 2012.

With the development of DC technology, SMS Siemag has set a milestone in the production of ferrochrome. This technology allows the direct charging of fine ores into the furnace. It thus makes the expensive upstream process of ore agglomeration unnecessary and, compared with the conventional three-phase AC technology, the investment costs are a great deal lower.

The furnace has further special technical features that enhance the availability and lower the specific production costs: The conductive copper bottom has a long service life and ensures that the energy is uniformly distributed in the furnace. The patented electrode column system enables the electrodes to be slipped under full load. Thanks to the special design of the high-current system, the process runs in a very uniform manner and with minimal deflection of the arc. The customer benefits from the much longer service life of the refractory lining.

As the leader of an international consortium, SMS Siemag is conducting the project management as part of the planning of the integrated plant.

Besides the basic engineering, which has already been completed within the framework of an engineering order, the SMS Siemag supply scope comprises the detail engineering, the supply of the DC furnaces and the provision of further mechanical and electrical core components.

TNK Kazchrome JSC belongs to the ENRC Group and is one of the world's most important ferrochrome producers. The customer already operates some ferrochrome works in the northeast and northwest of Kazakhstan.

With more than 500 references in the field of reduction metallurgy, SMS Siemag is a leading manufacturer of ferroalloy facilities.

(38 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 2009, some 9,000 employees worldwide generated a turnover of EUR 3.9 bn.