

PRESS RELEASE

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SMS Siemag expands newly-created

Furnace Technology Division

**SMS Siemag acquires know-how of GATV Gesellschaft
für aero- und thermodynamische Verfahrenstechnik**

On July 1, 2011, SMS Siemag, Germany, acquired new areas of know-how from GATV, a company that specializes in aero and thermodynamic process engineering and is headquartered in Leverkusen, Germany. Specifically, it is about their expertise in the fields of drying and annealing furnaces for steel and aluminum foil and strip coating as well as energy recovery plants. In addition, the technical experts from these spheres were transferred to SMS Siemag. The know-how and employees from GATV were integrated into SMS Siemag's new Furnace Technology Division in Düsseldorf. The existing business relations with GATV, renamed C.O.P.S. International GmbH on July 15, 2011, will remain intact and will be handled by C.O.P.S.

Through this transaction, SMS Siemag has gained a team of experts who have been working successfully for more than 20 years in the field of process technology (drying and cooling systems for strips, exhaust-air cleaning systems with highly efficient energy recovery systems). In the past, the team of experts planned and implemented process plants for foil and strip processing lines worldwide, above all for the aluminum and steel industries. Included in the supported

product range are especially the technologically sophisticated floater furnaces for aluminum in the coating and annealing sector (automotive and aerospace industries).

Another area of operations is the modernization of existing plants for enhanced efficiency and energy savings.

To further expand its expertise in the field of heat treatment of flat products, SMS Siemag founded its Furnace Technology Division on January 1, 2011. The Division, headquartered in Düsseldorf, Germany, numbers more than 200 employees spread worldwide, including its subsidiaries Drever International in Belgium and Ares in China.

“One of the aims of the Division is to expand our know-how and competences in drying furnaces installed in strip processing lines for aluminum and steel,” says the Executive Vice President of the Division, Dr. Fritz Brühl. “Now, with the acquisition of GATV’s know-how, we are well on the way to achieving this goal.”

There has already been a series of cooperative ventures between SMS Siemag and GATV in the past. To give an example, GATV is providing the complete process engineering for the aluminum and steel strip color coating line that SMS Siemag is currently erecting in Turkey for ASAŞ Alüminyum.

(44 lines with max. 55 letters)