

**PRESS RELEASE**

Düsseldorf, August 23, 2011

Successful commissioning of the second CSP<sup>®</sup> caster

**Essar Steel: Production on the new CSP<sup>®</sup> plant sets new standards**

On July 15, 2011, the second strand of the CSP<sup>®</sup> plant (Compact Strip Production) supplied by SMS Siemag, Germany, to the Indian steel producer Essar Steel Ltd. at Hazira in Gujarat, India, was successfully put into operation.

The CSP<sup>®</sup> plant with the first strand was started up on March 31, 2011; the third strand will be installed in 2012. Essar Steel will thus have the first three-strand CSP<sup>®</sup> plant worldwide with an annual capacity of 3.5 million t of hot strip.

As Essar Steel reports, on the very first day of commissioning a sequence of twelve heats of 200 t each was cast totaling 2,400 t of liquid steel. The second sequence consisted of ten heats. Production on the second strand proceeded without any breakouts, with 75 percent of the rated capacity already achieved during commissioning. Already when casting the very first sequence, thickness reduction LCR<sup>®</sup> (Liquid Core Reduction) and width adjustment were successfully utilized.

Essar Steel can produce hot strip with widths of 950 to 1,680 mm and thicknesses of 1.0 to 25.4 mm on the CSP<sup>®</sup> plant. The product range covers strip of carbon steels as well as pipe grades, silicon and dual-phase steels. The CSP<sup>®</sup> process offers the best prerequisites for the economical processing of high-quality steel grades.

SMS Siemag's scope of supply included the engineering, the manufacture of the mechanical equipment, the entire electrical and automation systems, as well as the erection and commissioning supervision. The X-Pact<sup>®</sup> automation system had been prepared with the tried and tested Plug & Work process. Plug & Work simulates the production sequence and allows the automation functions to be tested and optimized under realistic conditions prior to installation in the works.

(32 lines with max. 58 letters)

SMS Siemag AG is a company of the SMS group, which is, under the roof of SMS Holding 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 2010, some 9,200 employees worldwide generated a turnover of EUR 3 bn.