

**PRESS RELEASE**

Düsseldorf, February 16, 2012

**Successful commissioning of 320-t duplex RH-TOP  
plant from SMS Mevac at the metallurgical combine of  
Novolipetsk (NLMK)**

The metallurgical combine of Novolipetsk (NLMK), located in Lipetsk, Russia, has successfully commissioned the RH-TOP plant supplied by SMS Mevac, Germany.

The new duplex RH-TOP plant will be used predominantly for the production of ultra-low-carbon steels and low-alloy grades, among others for the production of pipes and tubes and for ship building. It is planned to treat more than 4 million tpy of steel in the RH plant.

The duplex plant, designed to treat heats with a nominal weight of 320 t, is equipped with a high-efficiency vacuum pump system.

Both treatment stations use a very reliable hydraulic rocker-type system for lowering the snorkels into the steel bath. The plant is completed by devices such as TOP lances, a common alloying system with double-chamber vacuum locks and temperature measuring and sampling devices with slag breakers. The supplied plants also include two stations for additional treatments. Each station is equipped with a cored-wire feeding system, devices for insulating powder addition and sample taking for hydrogen measurements.

The scope of supply comprised the complete basic engineering, delivery of main equipment, complete basic automation and level-2 process automation systems and supervision of installation and commissioning.

SMS Mevac GmbH forms part of the Metallurgical Plant and Rolling Mill Technology Business Area of the SMS group.

(27 lines with max. 65 letters)