

Phone: +49 211 881-4449
Fax: +49 211 881-4386
Mobile: +49 151 40226502
E-mail: thilo.sagermann@sms-group.com
Thilo Sagermann

PRESS RELEASE

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High-quality hot-dip galvanized automotive grades for the
Chinese market

SMS Siemag supplies hot-dip galvanizing line to Bengang

Chinese Bengang Steel Plates Co. Ltd. (Bengang) awarded SMS Siemag (www.sms-siemag.com), Germany, the order for the supply of a continuous hot-dip galvanizing line. The line will feature a radiant tube furnace from DREVER International and an air-knife system from FOEN Engineering. DREVER International and FOEN Engineering are both companies of the SMS group. With this investment, Bengang is advancing into the market for high-quality hot-dip galvanized automotive grades for unexposed and exposed vehicle parts. To achieve this, MET/Con will provide the technical assistance and know-how for the production and subsequent certification of the automotive grades.

The line will be part of the new cold-rolling mill No. 3 in the northern Chinese province of Liaoning and is scheduled to be commissioned in the second half of 2015. It will be rated for an annual production of approximately 500,000 tons, including deep-drawing steels and high-strength DP and TRIP grades. The strips will be galvanized or galvanneal-coated.

Besides the design of the mechanical equipment and the manufacture of high-quality core components, SMS Siemag's supply scope includes the supervision of the local production and of the installation and commissioning of the line.

The hot-dip galvanizing line will include a DREVER annealing furnace with Ultra Fast Cooling System. A special feature of this furnace is that, while providing a high level of operating efficiency and eco-friendliness, it can handle high production capacities and an extensive mix of products. Among other things, the furnace features a pre-oxidation facility for selective surface oxidation and later reduction of the surfaces of high-manganese or high-silicon steels, in order to increase the wettability of these grades. A fully equipped FOEN air-knife system, including a FOEN DEMCO[®] strip stabilization unit, will be integrated to provide high-quality galvanized surfaces, while keeping zinc consumption low.

The processed strip widths will range between 800 and 1,870 millimeters and the strip thicknesses between 0.4 and 2.5 millimeters. In the process section, the strip will be galvanized at speeds of up to 180 meters per minute. In the entry and exit sections, speeds of up to 250 meters per minute will be attainable.

The supply scope of SMS Siemag contains the entry section with two uncoilers, entry accumulator, cleaning section, DREVER radiant tube annealing furnace with an oxidation chamber, FOEN air-knife system with strip stabilization, galvannealing furnace, cooling section, intermediate accumulator, skin-pass mill, tension leveler, roll-coater, exit accumulator, side trimmer, inspection looper, DUMA-BANDZINK oiling machine, flying shear and two tension reels.

Once again, Bengang relies on the expertise and experience of SMS Siemag. Among other things, in the beginning of 2013, the Chinese steel manufacturer ordered two annealing lines and a pickling line/tandem cold mill.

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In Bengang's new hot-dip galvanizing line, a FOEN air-knife system with DEMCO® strip stabilization will produce high-quality strip surfaces for exposed vehicle parts.

SMS Siemag AG is a company of the SMS group which, under the roof of the SMS Holding GmbH, consists of a group of global players in machinery and plant construction in steel and nonferrous metals processing. Its workforce of more than 13,800 employees generates sales worldwide totaling EUR 3.5 billion.