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PRESS RELEASE

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Increase in the niobium production for micro-alloyed steel

CBMM orders submerged arc furnace from SMS Siemag

CBMM (Companhia Brasileira de Metalurgia e Mineração), Brazil, placed an order with SMS Siemag (www.sms-siemag.com), Germany, for the supply of a submerged arc furnace (SAF). It is the aim of CBMM to increase the production capacity at the location of Araxá in Brazil. Commissioning is scheduled for the Christmas/New Year period 2016/17.

The scope of supply of SMS Siemag includes the engineering and the supply of a submerged arc furnace, a 15-MVA transformer, a gas cleaning system, a water quench facility as well as a system for the compensation of the reactive power.

The new submerged arc furnace will produce refined niobium concentrate for further processing into ferroniobium (FeNb) and niobium oxides. Niobium is mainly used as micro-alloying element in steel and causes simultaneous increase in strength and toughness. Important segments using micro-alloyed steel are the automotive industry, pipelines for gas and oil transportation and structural applications.

SMS Siemag already supplied submerged arc furnaces to CBMM in the years 1993, 1998 and 2004. CBMM is a private company which

was founded in Araxá, Minas Gerais, Brazil in 1955. At present, CBMM is one of the leading producers of ferroniobium worldwide.

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One of the submerged arc furnaces at CBMM, the SMS group supplied in 1999.

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.