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PRESS RELEASE

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Slab sizing press for more flexibility and higher capacity

**SMS Siemag is expanding the hot strip mill at Xichang Steel
with a slab sizing press**

PIETC Panzhihua Co., Ltd. has awarded SMS Siemag, Germany, www.sms-siemag.com the contract for expanding the roughing mill in its hot strip mill in Xichang City, China, through the addition of a slab sizing press. The aim of the revamp is to make the production process more flexible.

With an edging force of up to 22,000 kN, the slab sizing press will reduce the slab width to the required dimension, by up to 350 millimeters in one pass. By casting slabs with a higher average width and a reduced number of casting sizes, Xichang Steel can increase the throughput rate of its continuous casting machine. The slab sizing press additionally allows more flexibility in the scheduling of the rolling programs.

Xichang Steel produces carbon steels for pipelines as well as for the construction of ships, bridges and buildings, among other things. SMS Siemag already delivered the hot strip mill for Xichang Steel's plant in 2011. The revamp of the 2,050-mm-wide plant will now take place during a short downtime. The major part of the preparatory work will take place parallel to production.

SMS Siemag will manufacture the core components of the slab sizing press, such as press sleds with drive unit, width adjustment system and main gear unit, at its workshop in Hilchenbach, Germany. Following completion of the revamping phase at Xichang Steel in the second half of 2015, SMS Siemag will be able to look back on a total of 19 successfully installed slab sizing presses. Alone 13 of them are operating in China.

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Similar slab sizing press for slab width reduction in one pass.

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.