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## **PRESS-RELEASE**

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SMS group received final acceptance certificate for  
reheat furnace revamp

### **Reconstruction of a pusher furnace for slabs at VÍTKOVICE STEEL, a. s.**

In February 2016, the SMS group ([www.sms-group.com](http://www.sms-group.com)) received the final acceptance certificate from VÍTKOVICE STEEL, a.s., Czech Republic, for the complete reconstruction of an old pusher-type reheating furnace. The furnace feeds a plate mill at a maximum hourly rate of 90 tons of slabs at reference conditions, reheated from ambient temperature to 1,250 °C. The results of the comprehensive modernization are minimized skid marks, increased quality, an efficient control system and reduced fuel consumption.

“We are proud of having completed another brown-field job of such significant magnitude,” states Simone Zussino, head of the reheating furnaces and heat treatment department at SMS Meer S.p.A. “This demonstrates once more the SMS group’s commitment to renewing outdated plants in Europe and the great benefits this provides for us, the end users and the environment.”

A key technological aspect of the project had been to minimize skid marks on the slab bottom surface, which can cause noticeable rolling troubles. To ensure the fulfillment of the strict target given by

Vítkovice Steel, a.s., SMS ran some test campaigns in a laboratory furnace before choosing the final skid-riders shape and material.

With the revamped furnace VÍTKOVICE STEEL, a.s. can take full advantage of a modern control system which minimizes human supervisory work during production, last but not least due to the installation of the combustion optimization system SMS Prometheus™. The reconstructed furnace consumes significantly less fuel compared to the old unit. The furnace meets the high safety requirements of the European standard 746-2. Also environmental aspects played major role in this project. An important target of the reconstruction project was to achieve a significant reduction of NOx emissions.

The project was accomplished on a turn-key basis by SMS Meer Sp.A. in collaboration with the local firm BKB Metal, a.s. The latter was responsible for the civil works and the construction activities. Particularly noteworthy is the engineering solution provided by SMS as the team of engineers have succeeded in building a furnace of the most advanced design on the existing foundations, thus reducing the civil works. The smooth interaction between the existing and the newly supplied equipment is one of the keys to the success of this project, which was completed in one and a half years according to the customer's requirement.

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Reconstructed pusher furnace with a throughput of 90 tons per hour feeding the plate mill at VÍTKOVICE STEEL, a. s. Ostrava, Czech Republic.

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