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**PRESS RELEASE**

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Expansion of aluminum flat product segment

**Shandong Weiqiao issues FAC to SMS group for aluminum hot strip mill**

On March 5th, 2016, Shandong Weiqiao Aluminium & Electricity Co., Ltd. granted SMS group ([www.sms-group.com](http://www.sms-group.com)) the Final Acceptance Certificate (FAC) for an aluminum hot strip mill.

Pursuing a strategy of downstream expansion, Shandong Weiqiao Aluminium & Electricity is setting up a new aluminum rolling mill complex at its site in Zouping in the Shandong Province, China. In addition to the hot rolling mill, the SMS group supplied two single-stand cold rolling mills, one three-stand cold tandem mill and a fully automatic high-bay warehouse for aluminum coils for the new works.

Zhang Yuedong, Deputy General Director of “New Material Branch, Shandong Weiqiao Aluminium & Electricity”, which is the business unit in charge, states: “Based on the achieved operating results, we are convinced that the hot rolling mill supplied by SMS group will allow us to fulfill all and any requirements placed on our products by customers in China and worldwide. Thanks to this investment, Shandong Weiqiao Aluminium & Electricity is entering the aluminum flat product market as a new player.”

The hot rolling mill consists of an edger, a roughing stand, a heavy and a light crop shear, a four-stand finishing train and a run-out section including a side trimming unit and a coiler. Shandong Weiqiao can now produce up to 2,200-millimeters-wide aluminum strips in a great variety of material grades. The main products are high-

performance can end and body materials, CTP/PS sheets and foil stock.

Shandong Weiqiao Aluminium & Electricity is a privately-owned company belonging to the Weiqiao Pioneering Group, which is one of the Top 500 companies in China. Among the plants operated by the company are several coal-fired power plants and electrolytic plants for the production of aluminum metal.

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A coil being inspected in the offline inspection unit.

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