

## **PRESS RELEASE**

June 13, 2005, Düsseldorf

### **Two batch homogenizing plants commissioned successfully**

Hertwich Engineering GmbH, Austria, has supplied and commissioned two new batch homogenizing plants for AMAG rolling GmbH, Austria. Special requirements are the wide spectrum of temperatures and tight temperature tolerances.

Besides the very accurate temperature control, special recipes for heating regimes can be run. The AMAG plants are built as double-chamber furnaces for up to 90 tons batch weight each.

The supply includes fully automated ingot handling, high-storage system for up to 140 off rolling ingots (12 tons per piece) and manipulator, spacer system, automated weighing. An ultrasonic inspection station to probe 100 per cent of rolling slab volume is to be added and integrated by Hertwich Engineering.

Test parameters (fault data) are available to the slab saw. No manual intervention is required throughout the installation, all handling is fully automated. The first batch homogenizing plant has been in operation since 2001, the second plant since 2004.

Hertwich Engineering GmbH show their competence in the aluminum casthouse with several new orders for batch type homogenizing furnaces.

For hard alloys with their rather long holding times batch furnaces are best suited for slabs, and in certain cases also for billet. Therefore the batch plant is not in competition with the continuous homogenizing plant, but complimentary to it.

Besides worldwide leadership with continuous homogenizing plants, Hertwich Engineering again leads the way with an improved generation of batch systems, to round off the comprehensive product range.

Hertwich Engineering GmbH forms part of the Tube, Long Product and Forging Technology Business Area of the SMS group.

(29 lines with max. 55 letters)

SMS GmbH is the holding for a group of companies internationally active in plant construction and mechanical engineering relating to the processing of steel, non-ferrous metals and plastics. The group is divided into the Business Areas of Metallurgical Plant and Rolling Mill Technology, Tube, Long Product and Forging Technology and Plastics Technology. In the year 2004 some 9,500 employees worldwide generated a turnover of about EUR 2.20 bn.