

PRESS RELEASE

July 21, 2005, Düsseldorf

Successful final acceptance test at Alfa Acciai

Alfa Acciai has issued the final acceptance certificate for its bar mill in Brescia to SMS Meer S.p.A., both Italy.

The scope of supply included the roughing, intermediate and pre-finishing stands, two finishing blocks each for four passes, the patented high-speed delivery system (H.S.D.[®]), cooling bed, layer transfer facilities, tying machines, hydraulic and lubricating units and all other ancillary facilities.

The product mix of the bar mill includes rebar steel with diameters of 8 and 10 mm (two-slit process) and with 12 and 16 mm diameter. The production capacity of the mill is 50 tonnes per hour.

The double rotating channel of the high-speed delivery system is designed for the simultaneous delivery of the bars onto each of the drums (alternate delivery of two bars at a time from each of the two drums). This solution combines the two-slit rolling process for rebars (8 and 10 mm diameter) with the high-speed delivery onto the cooling bed so that the production capacity for these smaller sizes is further increased.

SMS Meer S.p.A. forms part of the Tube, Long Product and Forging Technology Business Area of the SMS group. (20 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.