

PRESS RELEASE

July 27, 2005, Düsseldorf

New development from SMS Meer

EWS orders three-roll sizing block for bar steel

The Edelstahlwerke Südwestfalen GmbH, Siegen-Geisweid, has placed an order with SMS Meer GmbH, Mönchengladbach, both Germany, for the modernization of its bar mill in Geisweid. The heart of the supply is a new three-roll sizing block Type PSM 420 (PSM = Precision Sizing Mill) to replace the existing seven-stand reduction block and three-stand sizing block.

The new three-roll PSM sizing block is a six-stand finishing block with three-roll technology and one individual drive per stand. The new PSM will be used to finish all round formats from 22 to 85 mm with a diameter tolerance of ¼ DIN. The stands are equipped with a hydraulic adjustment mechanism that allows the rolls to be adjusted under load (with adjustment against the rolling force).

The new PSM sizing block is essentially based on the proven components used in the three-roll technology for tube rolling where SMS Meer has been world market leader for many years, and was the first company worldwide to supply three-roll stands with hydraulic roll adjustment for tube mills. Tube makers have been familiar with this technology since the successful market launch of the PQF®

stands (PQF = Premium Quality Finishing) in 2003. The use of this stand design with hydraulic roll adjustment for the rolling of quality bar steel is now a further world's first for SMS Meer. The development of the PSM also benefited from the company's technological competence in the field of quality steel and bar steel mills.

This modernization will allow the program changing times to be significantly reduced, with a simultaneous increase in production flexibility and improved product quality. This sizing block will permit rolling with reduced final rolling temperatures (normalizing and thermo mechanical rolling) and the correction of cross-sectional fluctuations over the length of the bar.

Apart from the mechanical equipment for the PSM, SMS Meer will also supply all the quick-change facilities, the electrical equipment with the corresponding automation system – also including the CARTA[®] Technology System – a triangulation measuring unit for online measurement of the rolling stock tolerances, and all the necessary ancillary equipment. The complete erection of all the equipment supplied will also be carried out by SMS Meer.

The start-up of the modernized mill is scheduled for after the summer holiday standstill in August 2006.

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

(42 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.