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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### New order for SMS Meer S.p.A. from Russia

#### **New walking beam furnace and finishing mill for NSMMZ**

ZAO "Nizhne-Serginskij Metizno-Metallurgicheskij Zavod", a manufacturer of bar steel and wire rod, has placed an order with SMS Meer S.p.A., Italy, for the supply of a complete reheating furnace for billets and a finishing mill block for its works in Nizhnie Sergi near Ekaterinburg, Russia.

The scope of supply includes a walking beam furnace with a capacity of 190 t/h for square billets measuring 125 x 125 mm and 12 m length, with charging and discharging facilities and all auxiliary facilities. This walking beam furnace is one of the largest in the world for the reheating of billets and is characterized by a short billet discharging cycle time of 27 seconds. A finishing mill block for the existing rolling line is also included in the scope of supply. The complete power and automation system for the walking beam furnace and the finishing mill is also included in the scope of supply of SMS Meer S.p.A.

The modernized rolling mill will be used to produce straight bars from 8 to 40 mm diameter.

The modernized bar mill is scheduled to go into full production in the fourth quarter of 2005.

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

(23 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.