

PRESS RELEASE

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New automation system for stretch-reducing mill at V & M

The automation system modernized by SMS Meer, Germany, on the existing stretch-reducing mill (SRM) at the V & M (Vallourec & Mannesmann Tubes) works in Zeithain has been successfully commissioned.

SMS Meer also replaced the technology system that had been supplied by SMS Meer in 1992 with a CARTA[®] System of the latest generation comprising the following software modules:

- **Planning system**, for calculation of the static speeds, pass forms and tool data and for presetting the CEC, WTCA, WTCL systems
- **Crop End Control (CEC) System**, for reducing the length of the thickened tube ends inherent in the stretch-reducing mill process
- **Wall Thickness Control Average (WTCA)**, for speed control of the 30 electric motors in relation to the average wall thickness of the ingoing shells in order to optimize the average wall thickness of the tubes produced
- **Wall Thickness Control Local (WTCL)**, for speed control of the electric motors in order to correct wall thickness deviations of the ingoing shells
- **Planning Optimization Module** for optimum speed setting and control for the first tube of a rolling lot.

The existing measuring technology for collection of shell and tube data was integrated into the new overall automation concept.

The stretch-reducing mill has 30 stand positions. The stands are each driven by one electric motor. Tubes in the diameter range from 17.2 to 114.3 mm with maximum wall thicknesses of 16 mm can be rolled on the stretch-reducing mill.

The aim of this investment was, in particular, to improve the material yield of the mill – essentially through the further shortening of the thickened tube ends – and to reduce the wall thickness tolerances of the tubes, especially with small rolling lots.

The installation and commissioning of the automation system also formed part of the SMS Meer scope of supply.

The improvements targeted and guaranteed during the project phase were achieved and in some cases even surpassed. The project was completed on schedule and the system is running reliably.

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

(38 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.