

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Düsseldorf, September 6, 2006

### Order for SMS Meer GmbH

#### **Steel Dynamics Inc. orders medium section mill**

Steel Dynamics Inc. (SDI), Structural and Rail Division, Columbia City, Indiana, USA, has placed an order with SMS Meer, Mönchengladbach, Germany, for the supply of a new medium section mill with an annual capacity of 600,000 sht (short tons).

With the new medium section mill, SDI will be able to significantly expand its product range. The new mill is designed for an extensive rolling program that includes beams, channels and angles. The main product size range lies between 3" (76 mm) and 14" (356 mm), although beams of up to 18" (457 mm) can also be produced. By extending the existing casting equipment, the new plant can be expanded to a capacity of one million sht (short tons) per year and is designed for a future production of flats.

The plant consists of 15 continuously arranged roll stands, flying shears, a rake-type cooling bed, an 8-roller straightener, cold saws for cutting the sections to finished lengths and automatic stacking, tying and loading facilities.

A new generation of stands characterized by an extremely rigid closed housing design and modular construction is employed in the mill. The stands can be employed alternatively as horizontal, vertical and universal stands, as required. The stands operate in two-high mode with groove shifting, the maximum possible barrel length of the rolls being 1,500 mm. Maximum stand rigidity and low roll costs for universal operation are achieved through the optimized bearing spacing.

Quick product changing is made possible by stand changing without the use of a crane. A profile measuring device and an automatic roll gap control system will also be supplied to ensure close rolling tolerances and to improve yield.

The mill will be operated in parallel with the existing heavy beam and rail mill that was also supplied by SMS Meer. Commissioning of this new medium section mill – that is regarded as the most modern of its kind – is scheduled for the end of 2007.

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

(36 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.