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PRESS RELEASE

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Order for SMS Meer from the USA

KobeWieland Copper Products orders directube® tube plant

The copper tube producer, KobeWieland Copper Products (KWCP), has placed an order with SMS Meer, a company of the SMS group, Germany, for the supply of a complete plant for the production of mother tubes. The new directube® line is to be installed at the Pine Hall, North Carolina, plant and is scheduled for commissioning at the end of 2008.

Apart from the complete equipment for the plant with cathode charging facilities, melting and casting plant through to the planetary rolling mill (PSW), SMS Meer is also to supply the electrical open-loop and closed-loop control technology and ancillary facilities. The scope of supplies and services also includes commissioning of the plant and training of the customer's personnel.

The order for the directube® line forms part of a major investment program with which KWCP aims to further increase its competitiveness. With this new plant from SMS Meer, the relatively young joint venture between Kobe Steel, Japan, and Wieland-Werke, Germany, also aims to expand the existing production capacity. With a tube weight of 1,100 kg, the directube® line in Pine Hall will be one of the most modern and efficient of its kind in the world, and hence an important reference plant for SMS Meer.

The mother tubes produced on the directube® line will be made of DHP copper. On the planetary rolling mill, they will be reduced to a diameter of approx. 60 mm with a wall thickness of approx. 3 mm. They will subsequently be further processed by KWCP. The finished tubes in the diameter range between 12.7 and 7 mm and with a wall thickness of approx. 0.3 mm will be employed predominantly in heat exchangers.

The outstanding features of the plant include the use of a pressure-controlled casting furnace that ensures a constant high quality and high yield of the cast mother tubes and the operation of a continuous planetary rolling mill of the latest generation with a significantly enhanced production capacity.

(34 lines with max. 55 letters)