

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### New mill from SMS Meer in Italy

#### **Successful start-up of new rolling mill for rebars and plain rounds at Stefana S.p.A.**

Stefana S.p.A., a manufacturer of bars and wire rod located in Ospitaletto, a town in the northern Italian province of Brescia, awarded a contract to SMS Meer, a company of the SMS group, Germany, in 2005 for the supply and installation of a complete bar mill for 120 t/h (140 t/h with hot charge).

The objective of the project named "Dream Steel" was to significantly boost production of straight bars and spools.

With its annual capacity of 700,000 t, this new plant is among the rolling mills with the highest productivity in southern Europe.

The product mix of the bar mill includes rebars and plain rounds with diameters from 8 to 16 mm produced with the two-slit rolling method, and with diameters from 18 to 40 mm produced in a single line.

The SMS Meer scope of supply included a walking-hearth furnace, the rolling line, the finishing section and two VCC<sup>®</sup> Vertical Compact Coiling lines.

The walking-hearth furnace is designed for heating 160 x 160 mm square billets with lengths of 16 m. With its dimensions, this unit ranks among the world's largest for reheating of starting material for long-product rolling mills. A connection to the existing caster allows the billets to be charged either hot or cold. The furnace includes all the necessary equipment for charging and discharging.

The rolling mill comprises 16 housingless stands consisting of six roughing mill stands arranged in horizontal and vertical configuration, and ten intermediate/finishing stands arranged in horizontal, vertical and convertible configuration. The scope of supply also included two finishing blocks each with six passes, three cooling sections for rebar quenching and self-tempering from rolling heat, two cooling bed shears and the patented HSD<sup>®</sup> High-Speed Delivery system. The HSD<sup>®</sup> system with four rotating channels allows high-speed rolling using the two-slit method in order to permit very high production rates with the smallest bar sizes.

When planning the layout of the mill, space was allowed for the future installation of a billet welder for endless rolling operation and a possible expansion for the production of wire rod.

The finishing area consists of a 90-m-long cooling bed, transport facilities, a cold shear, bundling equipment, four automatic tying machines with automatic labeling device, bundle transport ways and all the necessary utilities.

All products are delivered onto the cooling bed with a final speed of up to 40 m/s using the patented HSD<sup>®</sup> system. The entire mill has been designed and equipped, however, to allow a speed increase up to 50 m/s in the future.

On the two VCC<sup>®</sup> lines Vertical Compact Coiler lines, consisting of cooling boxes, shears, spooling equipment, a spool manipulator, two strapping machines, transport facilities and a weighing station, rebars with diameters from 8 to 16 mm are coiled into spools at a speed of 35 m/s. When charging 16-m-long square billets, the spools have weights up to 3.2 t with a diameter and a height of 700 mm.

SMS Meer acted as system integrator, supplying all the electrical and electronic equipment, controls and software for the mill automation.

Furthermore, erection and supervision of commissioning of the mill as well as training of the customer's personnel were also part of the scope of supplies and services. This represents further confirmation that thanks to its vast experience and broad expertise, as well as its well-known role of mill supplier and main contractor for complex projects, SMS Meer is reaffirming its vocation as provider of full-line services for the steelmaking and rolling industry.

SMS Meer is thereby confirming its position as one of the leading suppliers of rolling mill technology

(62 lines with max. 55 letters)

SMS group is, under the roof of the holding SMS GmbH, a group of companies internationally active in plant construction and mechanical engineering for the steel and nonferrous metals industry. It consists of the two Business Areas SMS Demag and SMS Meer, which jointly form SMS metallurgy. In 2007, some 8,000 employees worldwide generated a turnover of about EUR 3.0 bn.