

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Düsseldorf, April 19, 2006

### Modernization contract for SMS Demag Inc.

#### **Beta Steel caster conversion**

Beta Steel Corp.™, USA, has awarded SMS Demag, Pittsburgh, PA, USA, a contract to convert its single-strand casting machine from a slab thickness of 6.7 inches to 8.1 inches. The conversion, aimed at improved slab quality, reduced maintenance, and an increased coil weight, includes three new split-roll segments in the upper end of the machine to replace the existing full-face rollers. The lower portion of the machine, which was converted to split-roll segments by SMS Demag in 2004, will be re-gapped to accommodate the thicker slabs. Additional equipment being supplied under the modernization contract includes a segment carrier frame, removal guide rails and chain, and mold modifications.

The project, from engineering through manufacturing to delivery, is scheduled to be completed in just ten months ensuring a December 2006 start-up. The aggressive schedule is only possible due to a close working relationship between SMS Demag and its sister company SMS Millcraft, who will manufacture the majority of the equipment for the conversion.

SMS Demag Inc. forms part of the Metallurgical Plant and Rolling Mill

Technology Business Area of the SMS group.

(21 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 2005 some 9,250 employees worldwide generated a turnover of about EUR 2.33 bn.