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PRESS RELEASE

Düsseldorf, July 21, 2006

First coil produced on continuous annealing line at Angang New Steel Co.

A mere three months after starting the cold tests, Angang New Steel Co., Anshan, Liaoning Province, PR China, has produced the first coil on the continuous annealing line supplied by SMS Demag AG, Germany.

On the line, Angang New Steel Co. processes strips in the grades CQ, DQ1, DQ2, DDQ, EDDQ, S-EDDQ, HSS and TRIP, with gages from 0.3 to 2.0 mm and widths between 1,000 and 1,980 mm, in continuous operation at exit speeds up to 800 m/min. Over 1,000,000 t of high-grade annealed strip are produced each year for the automotive industry.

The six-high skin-pass mill integrated into the line is equipped with hydraulic roll-gap adjustment, with work-roll and intermediate-roll bending and with intermediate-roll axial shifting with CVC^{Plus} technology. The flatness measuring system shows that very good results are achieved for strip flatness and surface quality. The fully automated work-roll and intermediate-roll changing device allows fast roll changing without interruption to continuous operation in the process section of the line.

In the cleaning section, optimum strip cleaning is ensured by three brush scrubbers, two spray-cleaning zones and two electrolytic cleaning zones. Iron particles and rolling emulsion leave hardly any traces on being removed from the strip. At the same time, the five-stage cascade rinsing unit serves to reduce the consumption of rinsing water. This represents a saving of around 10 m³/h in comparison with a three-stage rinsing unit. In addition, the separate metering-in of soda lye and tensides replaces expensive ready-made cleaning agents and thus enables operating costs to be reduced.

A technical highlight is the Drever annealing furnace. This has already been utilized in various predecessor lines, e. g. in the world's largest line at Hyundai with an annual production of 1.2 million t.

The final acceptance of the line is scheduled for summer 2006. It should then still produce 400,000 t of annealed strip in the course of this year.

SMS Demag AG forms part of the Metallurgical Plant and Rolling Mill Technology Business Area of the SMS group.

(37 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.