

PRESS RELEASE

Düsseldorf, December 15, 2010

**Ma'aden-Alcoa to receive hot and cold rolling complex for
aluminum flat products from SMS Siemag**

Ma'aden-Alcoa has placed an order with SMS Siemag, Germany, for the supply of a complete integrated hot and cold rolling complex for aluminum flat products, including the electrical and automation package. The ambitious greenfield project is being implemented in Ras Az Zawr, Saudi Arabia, by the Ma'aden-Alcoa joint venture which comprises the US aluminum manufacturer Alcoa Inc. and the Saudi Arabian mining company Ma'aden. The annual capacity of the integrated rolling complex is around 400,000 t of aluminum strip for the manufacture of beverage cans. The hot and cold rolling mills will commence operation in Ras Az Zawr on the Arabian Gulf already at the end of 2012.

SMS Siemag is supplying the complete roughing and finishing mills for the hot rolling mill. The roughing mill comprises a four-high roughing stand which rolls down, in reversing operation, the incoming aluminum ingots of thickness up to 635 mm and weight up to 32.5 t. The roughing mill also includes one heavy and one light hydraulic crop shear for intermediate cropping and for removing the head and tail ends from the roughed ingot.

The four-stand finishing mill in four-high design rolls the roughed ingot, which has an entry thickness of around 30 mm, down to a final gage of 2 to 7 mm in a single pass. In the exit section of the finishing mill, the finished strip is side-trimmed and then taken up by a hot-strip coiler with belt wrapper. SMS Siemag is likewise supplying the complete cold rolling mill with coil preparation station in the entry section and an offline strip inspection facility in the exit section. The powerful four-stand tandem mill in four-high design rolls the incoming aluminum hot strip, having a maximum width of 2,100 mm, down to minimum final gages of 0.15 mm. The tandem mill is equipped with tried and tested actuators, comprising hydraulic adjustment, positive and negative work-roll bending and CVC[®] plus technology. These actuator systems ensure optimum strip flatness, strip gage tolerances and a perfect strip surface.

In a later expansion stage of the works, the plant concept will make it possible to change over to fully continuous mill operation through the retrofitting of various plant components such as a double pay-off reel, welding machine, strip accumulator and carousel reel.

Both the hot rolling mill and the tandem cold mill are equipped with all open and closed-loop control systems that guarantee reliable process control of the fully automated rolling operations. The here employed systems include the Alu-Control automation system, which is part of SMS Siemag's X-Pact[®] electrical and automation package and specifically designed to meet the process requirements of aluminum rolling. In both mills, Alu-Control covers the processes from level 0 through to level 2.

(46 lines with max. 55 letters)

SMS Siemag AG is a company of the SMS group, which is, under the roof of SMS Holding 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 Siemag and SMS Meer. In 2010, some 9,000 employees worldwide generated a turnover of EUR 3.1 bn.