

**PRESS RELEASE**

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Order for SMS Siemag from China

**Panzhuhua orders two annealing lines for the production of high-quality strips for the automotive and electrical appliances industries**

Panzhuhua (Panzhuhua Iron and Steel Group Co., Ltd.), China, has placed an order with SMS Siemag, Germany, to supply two continuous annealing lines for the new works in Xichang, Sichuan province, in the southwest of China. On the lines, a total of more than 1.7 million tpy of high-quality steel strips are to be produced for the automotive and electrical appliances industries. The annealing process and the particularly high cooling rates enable the strain hardening from the rolling process to be reduced in the material and allow the high-grade mechanical properties to be attained exactly as required. The two lines possess identical components and mainly differ according to the maximum widths and yield strengths of the steel strips to be produced. The lines will commence operation at the end of 2013.

Besides the design of the mechanical equipment and the fabrication of a number of special components, SMS Siemag's supply scope includes the supervision of erection and commissioning. Drever International will be providing both lines with high-capacity annealing furnaces with an integrated ultra-fast cooling system. Cooling rates of

up to 120 K/s/mm can be achieved with this cooling system, allowing high-strength materials to be produced.

Line No. 1 is designed for strips with a gage of 0.35 to 2.0 mm and widths ranging from 870 to 1,870 mm. The process speed is 420 m/min, while in the entry section 700 m/min can be attained and in the exit section up to 820 m/min. An annual capacity of 923,600 t thus becomes possible. Line No. 2 is designed for strips with gauges from 0.3 to 2.5 mm and widths between 870 and 1,620 mm. The maximum process speed in this case is 430 m/min, while in the entry and exit sections the same speeds as on the first line are attained. The line has a capacity of 816,800 tpy.

In both lines, the product range embraces the grades CQ, DQ, DDQ, SEDDQ, CQ-HSS, DQ-HSS, DDQ-HSS, BH-HSS, DP, TRIP. Line No. 1 will be producing strips with yield strengths up to 600 MPa. Line No. 2 will be used for the production of stronger strips, with yield strengths of 980 MPa being achievable.

Essential components of both lines are two payoff reels, a welding machine, cleaning section, vertical entry accumulator, Drever furnace, vertical exit accumulator, six-high skin-pass stand, inspection accumulator, side trimmer, inspection stand, oiler, flying shear and two tension reels.

(43 lines with max. 55 letters)