

PRESS RELEASE

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Commissioning of open-die forging press in China

**New press generation goes into production at Zhong Yuan
Special Steel Co., Ltd.**

In May 2009, Zhong Yuan Special Steel Co., Ltd. in Jiyuan City, Henan Province, Central China, commissioned an open-die forging press of Type OF2-45/50 MN (two-column push-down press) supplied by SMS Meer, Mönchengladbach, Germany. The press is used to process normal and high-alloy steels as intermediates for various industrial applications with a press force of up to 45 MN and an upsetting force of 50 MN.

The press is one of the first of a new press generation characterized by a particularly high performance capability. The press operates at up to 140 strokes/minute, whereas the predecessor generation typically achieves only around 85 strokes/minute. For the customer this means significantly shorter forging times, particularly when planishing long bars. This allows a reduction in the necessary forging heats with the associated energy savings and increased productivity. With the strategic investment in this press size, Zhong Yuan Special Steel Co., Ltd. aims to reduce costs and enhance the quality of processing of the materials with their difficult forging properties.

Of particular note is the short design, erection and commissioning time up to the first ingot. Only around five months elapsed between the start of erection and the first trial run. Six weeks later, the Final Acceptance Certificate (FAC) was signed. This was achieved i. a. through the outstanding cooperation at a high technical level between the press owner and the component suppliers. SMS Meer supplied the key components of the forging press and the complete hydraulic and electrical equipment. The hydraulic power pack is located away from the press in a separate room, allowing optimum sound insulation during forging. The customer and external suppliers provided components such as castings and various other mechanical parts manufactured to SMS Meer engineering specifications. The commissioning, including the integration of the forging manipulator, was carried out completely by specialists from SMS Meer.

The outstanding cooperation between customer, SMS Meer and co-suppliers is a good example of the very flexible project planning and execution. The customer can decide either in favor of a complete, fully integrated concept from a single source or a solution with several suppliers without any delays in project handling.

(39 lines with max. 55 letters)