

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Düsseldorf, March 29, 2006

### Order for SMS Meer GmbH

#### **Padana Tubi S.p.A. orders RD 355 tube welding line**

Padana Tubi S.p.A., Italy, has placed an order with SMS Meer, Mönchengladbach, Germany, for the supply of an RD 355 tube welding line.

The scope of supply includes a strip preparation section, spiral strip accumulator, tube welding machine with straightedge forming section and change equipment as well as a tubular section cut-off machine.

The stands of the tube welding line will have SMS Meer's proven URD<sup>®</sup> design that in conjunction with the computer-aided Quicksetting system permits exact and reproducible roll setting. In addition, short size-changing times will be achieved thanks to the automated roll quick-changing system. The maximum welding speed is 60 m/min.

The product mix of the line predominantly covers structurals – round, square and rectangular – to EN 10 219 DIN. Tubes can be produced in the following size ranges: Round tubes with outside diameters from 127.0 to 355.6 mm and hollow sections in the corresponding size range, i. e. square from 100 mm sq. to 280 mm sq. and rectangular from 150 mm x 50 mm to 360 mm x 200 mm.

SMS Meer GmbH forms part of the Tube, Long Product and Forging Technology Business Area of the SMS group. (22 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 2004 some 9,500 employees worldwide generated a turnover of about EUR 2.20 bn.