

PRESS RELEASE

Düsseldorf, March 30, 2006

Order for SMS Meer GmbH

Atlas Tube Inc. modernizes 16" (406 mm) tube welding line

Atlas Tube Inc., Canada, has placed an order with SMS Meer, Mönchengladbach, Germany, for the supply of equipment for the modernization of a 16" (406 mm) tube welding line. The modernization will be carried out as part of a plant relocation from Canada to a new operation in the USA.

The order for SMS Meer includes the supply of a new cross-welding table, a spiral strip accumulator and a squeeze stand with outside flash trimmer. The scope of supply also includes the tube transport facilities downline of the cut-off unit and the automatic bundler.

The tube welding line is designed for the production of tubes with outside diameters from 5" (127 mm) to 16" (406 mm) and square hollow structural section sizes ranging from 4" (101.6 mm) to 12" (304.8 mm) with a maximum wall thickness of 0.625" (16 mm) at welding speeds up to a maximum of 146 feet/min (45 m/min).

SMS Meer GmbH forms part of the Tube, Long Product and Forging Technology Business Area of the SMS group.

(18 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.