

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Düsseldorf, March 30, 2006

### Order for SMS Meer GmbH

#### **Larger product spectrum at Vyksa thanks to modernized 21" tube welding line**

As part of the modernization of its Works No. 3, JSC Vyksa Steel Works, Russia, has placed an order for the modernization of the 21" tube welding line with SMS Meer, Mönchengladbach, Germany.

The line is predominantly used for the production of oilfield tubulars and line pipes in the size range from 8 5/8" up to 21".

The objectives of the modernization are: Expansion of the product spectrum, significant reduction of the mill changeover times, improvement in the product quality with respect to diameter tolerance and ovality and the production of tubular sections.

The scope of the SMS Meer order essentially comprises the modernization of the fin-pass and sizing stands and the replacement of the squeeze stand.

The modernization of the fin-pass and sizing stands will create a roll assembly system with quick-changing facility.

The new squeeze stand is a five-roll stand with SMS Meer's URD<sup>®</sup> design. As with the fin-pass and sizing stands, it will be equipped with motorized adjustments and the Quicksetting system to ensure high precision and reproducibility of the settings. The 21" tube welding line will be equipped with a new QAS system.

In addition, a new hot sizing mill will be supplied in which the welded mothertubes will be formed into round tubes or tubular sections with square or rectangular cross-section.

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

(27 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.