

PRESS RELEASE

Düsseldorf, April 5, 2006

Order for SMS Meer GmbH

Tubular section cut-off machine for Padana Tubi

The tubular section manufacturer, Padana Tubi & Profilati Acciaio S.p.A. with head office in Guastalla, Italy, has placed an order with SMS Meer, Mönchengladbach, Germany, for the supply of a traveling tube cut-off machine.

Within the scope of supply for a new tube welding line by SMS Meer, this new machine is a major step forward in ensuring the production of high-quality tubes on modern lines at Padana Tubi.

The machine is designed to cut the round or rectangular tube strand leaving the ERW (Electric Resistance Welding) line using a milling cut-off unit, traveling synchronously with the speed of the tube strand. The tubes and corresponding sections lie in the diameter range of 5" to 14" with wall thicknesses from 3 up to 10 mm. The finished tube lengths lie between 5 and 16 m.

The tubular section cut-off machine with its two milling cut-off blades offset at approx. 180° to one another rotating about the tube is characterized by practically burr-free cut surfaces without cold deformation and a very good surface finish, close tube length tolerances and good tube optimization. Further benefits are the low tool costs, short size change times and low noise development during cutting.

Padana Tubi has now added its name to the list of 14 other tube manufacturers worldwide with a total of 24 machines who have already decided in favor of a machine from this series.

Commissioning of the new machine is scheduled for 2007.

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.