

PRESS RELEASE

Düsseldorf, October 13, 2006

Order for SMS Meer S.p.A. from the USA

Nucor Steel Darlington orders pusher furnace

Nucor Steel Darlington, part of the Nucor Bar Mill Group and a manufacturer of bar steel, has placed an order with SMS Meer, Italy, for the supply and commissioning of a new reheating furnace for its works in Darlington, South Carolina, USA.

The pusher furnace with a capacity of 120 sht/h will be used to heat 7" x 7" square billets with lengths of min. 20' (6,100 mm) and max. 35' (10,670 mm). The design and eco-friendly construction of the furnace using composite refractory material in the whole furnace chamber together with a high-quality skid pipe lining ensure high thermal efficiency.

The automation system controls both the thermal combustion process and the material handling system.

The furnace guarantees a uniform temperature distribution and high throughput rates in combination with a low specific energy consumption.

The SMS Meer scope of supply includes the charging equipment, the complete furnace steel construction, the burner and combustion system, refractory and insulation materials, discharge facilities, hydraulic and lubrication systems as well as all the ancillaries. The electrical equipment and the automation Level 1 and 2 will also be supplied by SMS Meer. Erection and commissioning supervision on site as well as the training of the customer's personnel also form part of the SMS Meer scope of supply.

This investment forms part of an extensive program undertaken by Nucor to bring all its facilities up to the state of the art in order to safeguard its competitiveness.

Commissioning of the furnace is scheduled for the end of 2007.

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

(31 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 2005 some 9,250 employees worldwide generated a turnover of about EUR 2.33 bn.