

PRESS RELEASE

Düsseldorf, June 19, 2008

Successful commissioning of open-die forging press at ThyssenKrupp VDM

SMS Meer, a company of the SMS group, Germany, has successfully commissioned the delivered 45-MN open-die forging press at ThyssenKrupp VDM, Unna plant. The official opening took place during a ceremony attended by the Minister for Economics of North-Rhine Westphalia, Christa Thoben, and other high-ranking personalities from business and politics.

The order placed with SMS Meer was for a new push-down forging press of four-column design. The forging force is 40 MN (roughly 4,000 t) and the upsetting force 45 MN. The press can operate at a speed of 124 strokes/min and is able to handle billets with a maximum weight of 60 t. SMS Meer supplied the complete mechanical equipment, including electrical systems and automation with the FORGEBASE control software that also controls the two forging manipulators supplied by the customer. One special feature of the plant: The whole press was mounted on a spring/damper combination to allow for the specific mining-related ground conditions at the site and at the same time to protect the neighboring residential area against the typical forging-related vibrations. The completion time for the entire project of only 14 months was extremely short.

The new press represents an important step for ThyssenKrupp VDM in strengthening its position as one of the world's leading suppliers of high-strength nickel-based alloys. The products made from nickel alloys and special stainless steels are employed in the aerospace industry, oil, gas, energy and environmental technique, the automotive industry and a large number of further applications.

(27 lines with max. 55 letters)

SMS group is, under the roof of the holding SMS GmbH, a group of companies internationally active in plant construction and mechanical engineering for the steel and nonferrous metals industry. It consists of the two Business Areas SMS Demag and SMS Meer, which jointly form SMS metallurgy. In 2007, some 8,000 employees worldwide generated a turnover of about EUR 3.0 bn.