

PRESS RELEASE

Düsseldorf, October 23, 2009

SMS Meer-supplied mill now in production

**Largest Assel mill in the world commissioned
at Hubei Xin Yegang**

On September 26, Hubei Xin Yegang Special Tube Co. Ltd., China, has successfully rolled the first tube on the world's largest Assel mill supplied by SMS Meer, Mönchengladbach, Germany. SMS Meer received the order to supply the mill in July 2007. Erection began in May 2009.

The new seamless tube plant was installed on the site of the tube mill owned by the CITiC Group in Huangshi, Hubei Province, where two Assel mills supplied by SMS Meer are already in operation. The mill is designed for the production of seamless tubes in the diameter range from 219 to 500 mm, predominantly for structurals. The design capacity of the mill is 420,000 tpy. The SMS Meer scope of supply includes a KSW 1500 VL cone-type piercer for piercing billet diameters of up to 460 mm and the core machine, an Assel mill AM 1100.

The Assel mill, named after its inventor, Walter J. Assel, has in the past been used mainly for rolling ball bearing tubes. Thanks to the continuous further development by SMS Meer, the benefits of the cross-rolling process can now be utilized for a wider range of tube grades, lighter wall thicknesses and significantly larger tube diameters with minimum wall thickness tolerances. Shells of up to 11.5 m in length and with a maximum weight of 6,300 kg can be rolled.

The mill also has a hydraulic roll setting system for controlled roll gap adjustment and newly developed, driven and adjustable guide rollers in the inlet and run-out section. This ensures a production with just minimum thickness and diameter variations of the rolled stock within a close tolerance range.

SMS Meer supplied not only the key components of the mill equipment but also the technological automation system. Moreover, SMS Meer provided the project management and supervised erection and commissioning, including operator training.

(34 lines with max. 55 letters)