

**PRESS RELEASE**

Düsseldorf, October 23, 2009

**Tianjin Pipe commissions SMS Meer-supplied  
CONTIROD® plant**

In July 2009, the Chinese copper wire producer TCICO, Tianjin, China, (Tianjin Pipe Corp. (TPCO)), commissioned its second CONTIROD® CR 3500 continuous copper wire rod plant. The plant with an annual capacity of 150,000 t of rolled wire rod was supplied and erected by SMS Meer, Mönchengladbach, Germany.

SMS Meer supplied the entire technical equipment for this plant which was commissioned within just 17 months after signing of the contract.

The new CONTIROD® plant was installed in the immediate vicinity of the first line that was commissioned in 2001. It has a casting capacity of 25 t/h with a casting cross-section of 5,400 mm<sup>2</sup> and a casting speed of approx. 10 m/min. The standard finished size is 8.0 mm diameter.

The plant consists of a shaft-type melting furnace and a 20-t holding furnace. The CONTIROD® plant is equipped with a Hazelett twin-belt caster and a continuous rolling mill of twelve mill stands with individual drives, as well as modern electrical equipment for automatic process control in order to ensure very good wire rod qualities.

As with the first plant, energy-saving variable-frequency three-phase AC motors were chosen for the main drives of the fans and the mill. This line is thus one of the most cost-effective of its kind.

The investment is part of TPCO's strategy to expand its production capacities in order to increase its market shares in the booming copper wire rod market. The copper wire rod is intended for both the domestic market and for export.

(27 lines with max. 55 letters)

SMS Meer GmbH is a company of the SMS group, which 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 Siemag and SMS Meer. In 2008, some 8,900 employees worldwide generated a turnover of more than EUR 3.6 bn.