

**PRESS RELEASE**

Düsseldorf, June 30, 2011

Order for SMS Meer

**Bhilai Steel Plant: Rail mill for high-speed train tracks**

Bhilai Steel Plant, a company of the Indian SAIL Group, has placed an order with SMS Meer, Germany, for the supply of a new universal rail mill. The mill will enable Bhilai Steel Plant to produce rails for high-speed trains. Furthermore, rails for goods transport with high weights and rail head-hardened products for special applications can also be produced. The rolling mill has an annual capacity of 1.2 million t. Rails with a maximum length of up to 130 m will be produced.

Bhilai Steel Plant will thus take on a leading role in the manufacturer market for special rails. The company benefits i.a. from fully automated stand changing which allows fast size changes. Another advantage: the RailCool® system that can be used inline for rail head hardening. The rolling mill forms part of a modernization and capacity expansion program. Rolling of the first rails is scheduled for spring 2013.

The rail mill is to be supplied by a consortium headed by SMS Meer. The company is to supply the whole mechanical equipment and the complete process equipment, including the rail head hardening technology.

The latest CCS<sup>®</sup> (Compact Cartridge Stand) stands are used in the universal mill. This technology is characterized by high frame rigidity, all-hydraulic roll gap adjustment and fully automated stand changing.

The CRS<sup>®</sup> (Compact Roller Straightener) horizontal roller straightener developed by SMS Meer will be used for straightening the whole rolling program. Thanks to the hydraulic vertical adjustment system with the straightening shafts mounted in bearings on both sides, the straightener offers optimum straightening characteristics for high-speed rails.

The complete rail finishing equipment also belongs to the SMS Meer scope of supply. This includes two automated rail testing centers, visual inspection lines, several rail sawing units, rail straightening presses, rail drilling machines and the long and short-rail loading equipment.

The RailCool<sup>®</sup> system with selective water spraying is employed for the rail head hardening. SMS Elotherm is to supply the induction heating equipment which allows selective temperature control in the fine pearlitizing process.

(38 lines with max. 55 letters)