

PRESS RELEASE

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Shorter standstill times, higher productivity
**Jiangsu Xigang produces first seamless tube
on a PQF[®] mill from SMS Meer**

The Chinese tube manufacturer, Jiangsu Valin-Xigang Special Steel Co. Ltd., has commissioned its new PQF[®] (Premium Quality Finishing) seamless tube mill. The mill will enable to reduce standstill times and hence increase the productivity at its works in Wuxi. The annual capacity in future will be 500,000 t. The maximum tube diameter is 10 ¾".

The line is built around a six-stand PQF[®] mill of LCO (Lateral Change Over) design in which the stands are changed from the side. That simplifies service and maintenance. The mill allows tubes with thin walls to be produced within close tolerances and requires less material and energy. "The PQF[®] mill enables tubes to be produced with a higher quality, thus strengthening our position on the market," says Lei Youtong of Jiangsu Valin-Xigang. The company will use the machine predominantly for the production of tubes for the oil and gas industry.

SMS Meer and SMS Innse supplied the core components of the rolling mill equipment for the new PQF[®] line, including the CARTA[®] automation and quality assurance system. Furthermore, the scope includes a PQF[®] calibration stand for checking the rolls and chocks after dressing. In addition, SMS Meer was responsible for the project

management, the erection supervision and commissioning, and for the hands-on training of the operating personnel.

The seamless tube plant at Jiangsu Valin-Xigang is the 11th PQF[®] mill to be successfully put into operation. A further five such seamless tube mills will go into production during the course of 2011.

(28 lines with max. 55 letters)