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PRESS RELEASE

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Integrated anode casting plant for Mopani

Mopani Copper Mines plc in Zambia, one of the leading manufacturers of high-quality copper cathodes in southern Africa, has placed an order with SMS Demag South Africa (Pty) Ltd. for the supply of technological process equipment for an anode foundry. The plant, consisting of two 400-t anode furnaces and a twin anode casting wheel, will be installed in the Mufulira smelter.

With the new anode foundry, Mopani plans to increase the concentrate processing capacity to 850,000 t/year. The anode foundry is designed for an annual production of 300,000 t of anodes with an hourly output of 90 to 100 t, depending on the anode weight.

This project will be handled by the companies operating under the roof of SMS metallurgy, SMS Demag South Africa Ltd. in cooperation with SMS Meer GmbH, Mönchengladbach, Germany. Technology owners and know-how providers for the key equipment are SMS Meer and maerz-gautschi Industrieofenanlagen GmbH, Düsseldorf, Germany.

The SMS Meer scope of supply includes the complete process equipment for the anode casting operation, starting from the automatic dosing system (intermediate and casting ladles), two casting wheels each for 16 anode molds, cooling systems and coating premixing and spraying system (system for coating the molds). The scope of supply also incorporates the anode removal and handling system, including bosh tanks and anode stackers, as well as the electrical control and monitoring system for the complete plant.

This anode casting plant for high-quality anodes is characterized by automatic control of the whole liquid copper section and the use of variable-frequency drive motors for the two casting wheels. This line is thus one of the most modern and profitable of its kind.

Commissioning of the plant is scheduled for the middle of 2007.

SMS Demag South Africa (Pty) Ltd. forms part of the Metallurgical Plant and Rolling Mill Technology Business Area of the SMS group.

(32 lines with max. 55 letters)

SMS GmbH is the holding for a group of companies internationally active in plant construction and mechanical engineering relating to the processing of steel, non-ferrous metals and plastics. The group is divided into the Business Areas of Metallurgical Plant and Rolling Mill Technology, Tube, Long Product and Forging Technology and Plastics Technology. In the year 2005 some 9,250 employees worldwide generated a turnover of about EUR 2.33 bn.