

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Düsseldorf, May 24, 2011

### Successful commissioning at Essar Steel by SMS Siemag

#### **World's first CSP<sup>®</sup> plant with three strands starts production**

The CSP<sup>®</sup> plant (Compact Strip Production) supplied by SMS Siemag, Germany, to the Indian steel manufacturer Essar Steel Ltd. at Hazira in Gujarat was successfully put into operation on March 31, 2011. The first strip had a final gage of 5.5 mm and a width of 1,290 mm.

The plant went into operation with one casting strand and will be successively extended in the next few months by the second and third strands. Essar Steel will thus have the first three-strand CSP<sup>®</sup> plant worldwide with an annual capacity of 3.5 million t of hot strip.

The CSP<sup>®</sup> plant is supplied by a steelworks, also built by SMS Siemag. The X-Melt<sup>®</sup> steelworks with two 200-t CONARC<sup>®</sup> furnace units and two twin ladle furnaces is designed for around 5 million tpy. A conventional continuous slab caster is also supplied from the steelworks.

The CSP<sup>®</sup> plant is designed for an annual production of 3.5 million t of hot strip. It consists of three casters, three roller-hearth furnaces with swivel transfer cars, a rolling mill with seven stands, the laminar strip cooling section and two downcoilers. The caster was built as a vertical-bending machine. The slab thickness can be variably adjusted between 55 and 80 mm.

Essar Steel can produce hot strip with widths of 950 to 1,680 mm and thicknesses of 1.0 to 25.4 mm on the CSP<sup>®</sup> plant. The product range covers carbon steels as well as pipe grades, silicon and dual-phase steels. The CSP<sup>®</sup> process offers the best prerequisites for the economical production of high-grade steel products.

SMS Siemag's scope of supply includes the engineering, the manufacture of the mechanical equipment, the entire electrical and automation systems, the erection supervision and commissioning.

The X-Pact<sup>®</sup> automation has been prepared with the tried and tested Plug & Work process. Plug & Work simulates the production sequence and allows the automation functions to be tested and optimized under realistic conditions prior to installation in the works.

(33 lines with max. 55 letters)