

PRESS RELEASE

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SMS Mevac GmbH successfully completes modernization at OEMK

OEMK of Stary Oskol, Russia, and SMS Mevac, Essen, Germany, have successfully commissioned the second modernized vacuum steel degassing facility.

OEMK operated two recirculation plants of the single-snorkel degassing DH-type (Dortmund-Hörde), which were supplied by SMS Mevac in the early 1980s.

The order from OEMK covered the revamping of the existing DH No 1 into an RH facility (Ruhrstahl-Heraeus) as well as the further modernization of the recently revamped RH No. 2 which originally also had been a DH facility.

The supply scope for the revamp of DH No. 1 essentially comprised new RH vessel bottom sections with snorkel tubes, the inert gas system for steel recirculation and the necessary control systems and instrumentation.

Additional components for both plants included new suction lines and maintenance-free gas coolers, new TOP-burners to replace the old graphite-rod heaters, as well as new wire feeders for optimized alloying. Furthermore, the scope of supply included the engineering as well as supervision of erection and commissioning of all components.

The Stary Oskol electric steelworks primarily produces bearing and spring steel grades, special pipe grades and rail steel grades and is therefore dependent on powerful secondary steelmaking. By the middle of the 1980s, the DH recirculation process (vacuum vessel with one snorkel tube), which belonged to the older generation of vacuum degassing processes, had been replaced completely by the more efficient RH recirculation degassing process (vacuum vessel with two snorkel tubes). An ever growing number of customers are today taking the opportunity to convert their old single-snorkel DH units into modern and more powerful RH facilities.

SMS Mevac has already successfully executed a number of such modernizations within short shut-down periods.

SMS Mevac GmbH forms part of the Metallurgical Plant and Rolling Mill Technology Business Area of the SMS group.

(35 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.