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PRESS RELEASE

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Production launch at Starcore in Thailand

Rolling and skin-passing mill at Esmech Equipment

Esmech Equipment Pvt. Ltd., an Indian joint venture partner of SMS Siemag, Germany, has successfully put into operation the new reversing cold mill at Starcore Co. Ltd. in Rayong, Thailand.

Starcore has now an additional production capacity of 200,000 t of high-grade cold rolled strip as well as a skin-passing capacity of 146,000 t per year. The combined reversing and skin-passing mill (RCM/SPM) rolls and skin-passes strips of up to 1,250 mm width at a maximum rolling speed of 1,200 m per minute. The minimum rolled final gage is 0.2 mm. Starcore will supply the products to its own parent company Saeng Thai Metal Drum Company Limited (STD) and to the Southeast Asian market.

The combined four-high cold rolling mill with CVC[®] was installed and successfully commissioned by Esmech Equipment. Core components such as cylinder and bending blocks as well as CVC[®] shifting systems were provided by SMS Siemag's production facility in Hilchenbach, Germany. The complete millstand was pre-assembled in the Esmech workshop in Wada/Mumbai, India, in order to ensure smooth erection and commissioning.

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The new combined rolling and skin-pass mill at Starcore.

SMS Siemag AG is a company of the SMS group which, under the roof of the SMS Holding GmbH, consists of a group of companies internationally active in plant construction and mechanical engineering for the steel and nonferrous metals industry. With more than 13,000 employees, the group generates sales of about EUR 3.5 billion.