

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Düsseldorf, April 20, 2010

### **SMS Meer modernizes mill in record time**

### **Nucor receives finishing mill with a competitive edge**

SMS Meer, Germany, has modernized a finishing mill for Nucor Steel Darlington, South Carolina, USA, in just five weeks. The new continuous finishing mill allows much shorter stand changing times and also much reduced setup and adjustment times. This consequent modernization has yielded a real competitive edge.

The new intermediate/finishing mill consists of four horizontal, one vertical, and three convertible type HL stand groups. The convertible groups are of dual-drive arrangement, with motors and gears keeping their position regardless of the stand configuration (either H or V), with benefits for maintenance and plant fitness, easier access to these facilities, while minimizing depth and amount of required foundation works.

A "flying shear", inter-stand equipment, quick change devices and tools, hydraulic and individual shear units are also part of the new setup.

The successful modernization in such a short time was only possible by close cooperation between SMS Meer and Nucor Steel. The modular pre-assembly of equipment and extensive pretests by SMS Meer's production team reduced the number of operations required on site, thereby allowing this record revamping time to be accomplished.

Nucor Steel Darlington, a company of the Nucor Bar Mill Group, is a well-known producer of steel bars.

(25 lines with max. 55 letters)

SMS Meer GmbH is a company of the SMS group, which is, under the roof of the holding SMS GmbH, a group of companies internationally active in plant construction and mechanical engineering for the steel and nonferrous metals industry. It consists of the two Business Areas SMS Siemag and SMS Meer. In 2009, some 9,000 employees worldwide generated a turnover of more than EUR 3.8 bn.