

**PRESS RELEASE**

Düsseldorf, July 21, 2010

**Saarschmiede inaugurates open-die forging press  
with 12,000 t press force from SMS Meer**

Saarschmiede GmbH, Völklingen, Germany, has commissioned the 120-MN open-die forging press supplied by SMS Meer, Germany. Peter Müller, prime minister of Saarland, spoke at the inauguration on May 8 of the “first day of the future”. Together with the board of management of Saarschmiede and of the parent company, Saarstahl AG, the prime minister pressed the start button in the presence of around 1,500 guests.

Dr. Klaus Harste, CEO of Saarstahl AG, praised the new plant: “This is a great day for Saarstahl. We are writing a new chapter in the history of our company. Not only does the forge safeguard our leading position on the world market. It also enables us to expand our market share yet further”.

Some 450 million Euros have been invested in the industrial plant. 350 new jobs have been created. According to the Saar State Bank, one of the co-financers of the project, this is one of the biggest investments in the Saarland in recent decades.

The open-die forging press has a press force of 12,000 t and can forge workpieces at up to 1,280 °C. The forged products are primarily large shafts for driving turbines and generators in nuclear, coal-fired and gas-fired power stations. The shafts produced on this open-die forging press can withstand higher temperature and pressure conditions. As a result, the energy yield can be increased thanks to the higher efficiency, thereby making an important contribution to environmental protection.

The forging press is installed in a 15.5-m deep pit and is driven by 16 hydraulic pumps with 120,000 l of oil. Two DDS manipulators with a carry force of 100 and 200 t move the forgings synchronously. The new bay is 530 m long and 43 m high.

(30 lines with max. 55 letters)