



UK ready to take 25% in Tata Steel's British operations

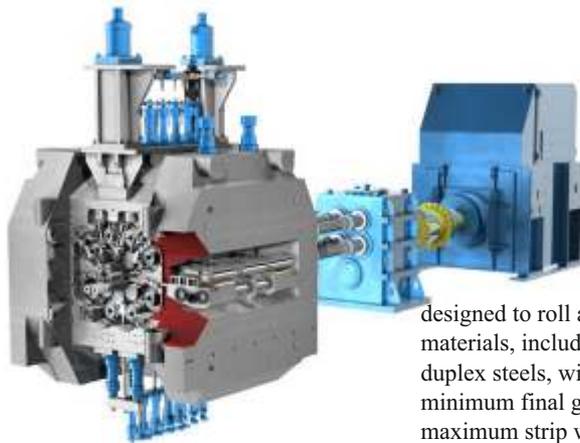
The UK government said that it could take up to 25% stake in Tata Steel's British units in a bid to save the loss-making mills from shutting down. The government also said it will offer debt financing of hundreds of millions of pounds to the potential buyer of the assets, which include Port Talbot steelworks, Britain's biggest plant.

Liberty House, owned by India-born businessman Sanjeev Gupta, German industrial conglomerate ThyssenKrupp and private equity firm Greybull Capital are reported to be the potential bidders for the assets. Executives of Port Talbot unit are also putting together a management buyout for the steel mills.

India's second biggest alloy producer said that it had reached out to 190 potential investors for its UK properties. Tata Steel's decision to exit the UK market has left the British government battling to save the once-powerful industry that has been battered by weak demand and depressed prices.



Acerinox Europe confirms its confidence in plant technology from SMS Group



Early in 2016, Acerinox Europe placed an order with SMS group for the installation of a 20-high cold rolling mill for high-quality stainless steel grades. With this third order within just a few years, Acerinox is continuing its successful co-operation with SMS group.

Acerinox has always placed high value on the upgrading and the technological advancement of its production facilities. Also in 2016, Acerinox remains true to this principle by investing in its main production facility in Los Barrios, Cadiz, in Spain. There, SMS group is going to install a new 20-high cold rolling mill in MonoBlock design of size MB22B-52", complete with X-Pact® electrical and automation systems.

Beside the MonoBlock millstand, the mechanical scope of supply comprises a separate pay-off unit, two reversing reels with

paper feed and utility systems, including hydraulics, a SUPAFINE® rolling oil plant, CO2 fire extinguishing system, fume exhaust system and filter.

The compact and robust cold rolling mill will be characterized by high stand stiffness and designed to roll a complex variety of materials, including ferrite, austenitic and duplex steels, with high pass reductions to a minimum final gage of 0.15 millimeters. The maximum strip width will be 1,320 millimeters and maximum rolling speed 800 meters per minute.

The mature rolling technology from SMS group meets Acerinox' high demands in terms of mill productivity and the quality of the products rolled. The millstand will be equipped with hydraulic gap control and roll crown adjustment for backup shafts B/C and F/G, as well as shifting of the inner

intermediate rolls. SMS group will equip the mill with X-Pact® electrical and automation systems, ensuring optimal utilization of the rolling mill. They will include the power supply systems, drive technology and technological control systems as well as the model-based setup system. The latter allows high-precision imaging and pre-calculation of the rolling process for the accurate presetting of the millstand.

The 20-high cold rolling mill is scheduled to start operation at Acerinox at the end of 2017. With this third order, Acerinox continues to rely on cold rolling mills from SMS group.

At the production facility of Bahru Stainless in Johor, Malaysia, the company has been operating a 20-high cold rolling mill since 2012.

At the production site of North American Stainless in Kentucky, SMS group is currently installing a 20-high cold rolling mill ordered by Acerinox for the production of bright-annealed stainless steel strip.

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