



Hebei Province to increase steel output cut for 2017



Hebei, China's main province for the production of iron and steel, has increased its iron and steel capacity-cutting targets for next year. The provincial government said that the province will cut 17.14 million tonnes of iron capacity and 19.86 million tonnes for steel in 2017, more than the original targets of 16.24 million tonnes of iron, and 15.62 million tonnes of steel.

2017 is the final year for Hebei province to finish the target of 60 mln tonnes inefficient capacity. As per the task of 13th five-year plan, it should compress 16.24 mln tonnes iron-smelting capacity and 15.62 mln tonnes of crude steel production capacity, however, Hebei raise the target to 17.14 mln tonnes iron-smelting capacity and 19.86 mln tonnes of crude steel production capacity respectively in 2017.

Qingdao Iron and Steel awards FAC to SMS Group for SBQ Mill



The Chinese company Qingdao Iron and Steel from Qingdao, Shandong Province has awarded SMS Group the FAC for the supplied SBQ (Special Bar Quality) mill. After a short ramp-up phase, the new special mill is now producing a wide range of steel grades with very good mechanical properties and optimized microstructure with tolerances of better than 1/6 DIN. The mill is designed for an annual capacity of around 700,000 tons of bar steel.

The close tolerances are achieved by the 3-roll "PSM®380/5" (Precision Sizing Mill) sizing block in conjunction with a MEERgauge® cross-section measuring system and monitor control technology.

Practically any desired finished sizes in diameters between 16 and 100 millimeters can be rolled.

A large number of different cooling strategies were considered during the design of the mill in order to achieve the very good mechanical properties and the optimized microstructure. These strategies are based on eight movable water

boxes and long equalizing sections.

Together with the CCT® program (Controlled Cooling Technology), optimum temperature control in the rolling mill is ensured during production for every dimension and every steel grade.

With the installation of the SBQ mill, the Qingdao Iron and Steel Group has strengthened its position on the market and extended its product portfolio by now being able to also roll high-grade special steels.

The SMS group is a group of companies internationally active in plant construction and mechanical engineering for the steel and nonferrous metals industry. Its 14,000 employees generate sales of over EUR 3.3 bn.

Steel makers suspected for smog in north China



China Daily reported that leading researchers on air pollution have identified the massive amounts of discharged pollutants, especially from industrial production, as the root cause of the severe winter smog in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region. According to environmentalists, the situation has likely been exacerbated by the rising price of steel, which resulted in plants increasing production to net higher profits.

Dong Liansai, the environmental group's head of air pollution research, said that the trend could be seen especially in southern cities of Hebei province and northern parts of Henan province.

Dong said that the increase in emissions from the boost in production was a likely contributor to the severe smog in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region.

In addition to industrial emissions, researchers and government officials agree that the heavy reliance on coal consumption in northern regions is another major reason for the frequent air pollution.

The smog that has blanketed northern and central areas has disrupted airports and expressways and led to school closures. In response, red alerts were issued by 24 cities to limit emissions from industrial production, with more than 1,200 factories in Beijing alone told to close or reduce output.