Beijing announces plan to cut steel and coal capacity

Beijing has announced plans to cut another 150 million tonnes of coal capacity and 50 million tonnes of steel capacity this year as the world's No. 2 economy deepens efforts to tackle pollution and curb excess supply.

This year's targets come after the world's top coal consumer and steel maker far exceeded its 2016 goals, eliminating 290 million tonnes of coal and 60 million tonnes of steel capacity. Below are the

provinces, which have published this week at parliament's annual meeting targets for this year or completed cuts in 2016:

In a work report at the opening of the annual meeting of parliament, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) said it would shut or stop construction of coal-fired power plants with capacity of more than 50 million kilowatts.

The pledges are part of Beijing's years-long push to reduce the share of coal in its energy mix to cut pollution that has choked northern cities and to meet climate-change goals while streamlining unwieldy and over-supplied smoke-stack industries such as steel.

Shandong Rizhao orders SMS to supply Steckel / Plate mill

Shandong Iron & Steel Group Rizhao Corp. Ltd. (Shandong Rizhao) has placed an order with SMS group for the supply of a Steckel/plate mill. The new plant, to be built in Rizhao in the Chinese province of Shandong, is scheduled to go on stream in 2019.

The order comprises the complete engineering package, mechanical key equipment, all electrical and automation systems as well as process know-how.

The Steckel/plate mill will be designed for an annual output of 1.3 mln tons of heavy plate. It will be able to produce plate between 4 and 50 millimeters thick and from 1,650 to 3,250 millimeters wide. The product range will include carbon steels, quality steels, low-alloy steels, grades for shipbuilding, bridge and pressure vessel construction, for weatherproof and wear-resistant plates as well as tube/pipe grades to API standard.

The slabs used as feedstock for the rolling mill will be produced by a new continuous caster also to be supplied by SMS group. Thanks to the high slab weight of 57 tons, the envisaged output of 1.3 mln tons per year can be achieved with only one mill stand. The slab width of 3,250 millimeters corresponds to the maximum plate width. Therefore, no broadsiding passes are needed.

The rolling line will comprise a Steckel mill stand with a connected edger at the entry side. The first passes are simple reversing flat passes. Rolling stock of a thickness of 25 millimeters or less will be coiled in the Steckel furnaces to keep the specified temperature. The mill stand will allow Shandong Rizhao to roll strips up to a length of 600 meters, which will be divided to mother plate lengths of maximum 50 meters by a “flying” cross-cut shear.

The four-high reversing stand will have a rolling force of 90 MN. To set the desired strip geometry, the mill stand will be equipped with state-of-the-art actuators. These will include, in addition to hydraulic roll adjustment, CVC plus equipment with integrated work roll bending. The vertical edger will feature fully hydraulic roll adjustment with integrated width control (AWC). During the coiling operation in the furnace, Steckel loopers will keep the strip tension constant, ensuring high process stability.

For plate cutting, the mill will be equipped with two shear lines, each comprising one double-side trimming shear and one cross-cut shear. One line will be designed to cut plates up to 50 millimeters thick, the other one for plates up to 25 millimeters thick.

SMS group will also supply X-Pact electrical and automation systems for the entire plant. At Level 0, this will comprise sensor technology, technological measuring devices as well as converters for the main drives and process-relevant auxiliary drives.

The Level-1 automation system will be completely based on state-of-the-art X-Pact technology. The operating concept X-Pact Vision will be implemented according to the latest ergonomic findings. This will allow the operator to use the system most intuitively and achieve best possible process guidance.

The Level-2 process automation system covers all technological process models from pass schedule calculation (PSC) to profile and flatness control (PFC) and further to the higher-level material tracking system (MTS).