



## Maanshan Iron and Steel orders heavy section mill from SMS group

Magang Group, Ltd., PR China, has commissioned SMS group GmbH to supply a new section mill for heavy and superheavy beams, known also as jumbo beams. The flexible section mill enables Maanshan Iron and Steel Co., Ltd. to respond to the high demand for heavy steel beams and sheet piles in the People's Republic of China. Hot commissioning is scheduled for mid-2019.

The section mill will be designed for an annual capacity of 800,000 tons and equipped with two state-of-the-art breakdown stands and the latest-generation CCS® (Compact Cartridge Stand) universal mill stands in a tandem reversing arrangement, featuring



hydraulic adjustment systems and automatic program changes. The new CRS roller straightening machine, which will be the largest of its kind and also fitted with hydraulic adjustment systems, guarantees both minimal program change times and maximum product quality.

The scope of supply also includes all the hot and cold separating equipment, and the entire plant technology and

engineering. The site erection and commissioning will be supervised by SMS group personnel. The customer's personnel will receive training on site and in the SMS group test center in Mönchengladbach.

The technological know-how, the proven, high-performance equipment, and the commissioning expertise, especially for rolling sheet piles, was a crucial factor in the customer's decision. Maanshan Iron and Steel has been successfully operating a heavy section mill from SMS group since 1998. This, together with the 14 other universal section mills that SMS group has erected in China, helped swing the decision in favor of SMS group.

## Ferrous: Statistical anomaly explains China's soaring scrap usage



As the world's largest steel producer, China is never too far from the thoughts of the steel scrap recycling industry. BIR pointed to last year's 64.2% leap in the Chinese steel industry's scrap use to 147.9 million tonnes, prompting a dramatic increase in the proportion of steel scrap used in the country's steel production to 17.8%. During the preparation of the 9th edition of their statistical analysis "World Steel Recycling in Figures 2013-2017", intensive talks have been held to evaluate the reasons for this unexpected development of China's steel scrap consumption. During their investigation, it was learned that this growth in scrap usage was closely related to China's closure of induction furnaces last year. Induction furnace production has been a characteristic of the steel industry in China for many years, but this sector's production and steel scrap consumption

were not included in official figures. Estimates indicate that steel scrap use in the country's induction furnaces was around 60 million tonnes in 2016 - and yet these volumes did not feature in official statistics. Hence, the steel scrap use figures BIR has received since 2010 from the China Association of Metalscrap Utilization (CAMU) do not incorporate this large quantity of steel scrap.

Following the closure of the induction furnaces, most of this 60 million tonnes of steel scrap was used last year by China's basic oxygen furnace (BOF) and electric furnace (EF) steel producers. That was the reason behind China's sharp increase in steel scrap usage in 2017. a further 2.2 million tonnes of steel scrap was not used domestically in China but was instead exported. Given that the steel scrap consumed by the now-idled induction furnaces was not included in the figures for 2016 and for preceding years, no direct comparisons can be made with the numbers for 2017. The increase in China's steel scrap usage last year is in line with Chinese government plans for a general increase in steel scrap use in domestic steel production.

## EU seeks to join U.S.-China steel dispute

The U.S. administration has set duties of 25 percent on steel and 10 percent on aluminum on grounds of national security, but provided a temporary exemption until May 1 for the European Union. China has taken the United States to the WTO over the measures. The first step in the WTO process involves consultations.

The WTO said that the European Union had made a formal request to join the consultations as a party with a significant trade interest in the matter. The EU noted, according to the WTO, that its interest was substantial because if the exemption ended then the U.S. measures would hit EU exports. Hong Kong, India, Russia and Thailand have all filed requests to join the consultations. The EU is the first of the parties granted an exemption to seek to join the dispute.

Canada, Mexico, Australia, Argentina, Brazil and South Korea also received temporary exemptions. South Korea's has since been extended indefinitely. The European Commission, which coordinates trade policy for the 28-member EU, said that the bloc wanted to be granted a permanent exemption without conditions.

This section is a compilation from various company press releases, business dailies, trade publications and Industry Websites.