

Metix joins SMS Group



From left to right: Dr. Rolf Degel (Director Technical Sales SMS Siemag), Jacques Venter (Technical Equipment Director Metix), Pat Davies (Marketing Director Metix), Kay Mayland (President and CEO SMS Siemag), Reinier Meyjes (Managing Director Metix), Frank Günther (Financial Director Metix), Burkhard Dahmen (Managing board of SMS Siemag), Wynand Moolman (Projects Director Metix), Franz Axtmann (Executive Vice President of Steelmaking and Continuous Casting Division SMS Siemag), Andrew van Niekerk (Engineering Director Metix)

Metix is proud to announce that it has joined SMS Siemag AG as part of the SMS Group. SMS Siemag AG has purchased the majority share in Metix (Pty) Ltd on 22 June 2011.

Metix will continue to operate as a standalone business unit in South Africa from its headquarters in Johannesburg; keeping the well established Metix name. The difference will be that Metix's current portfolio of products will be significantly expanded to cover the entire range of technology available within SMS Siemag. In addition Metix will expand its market area to the entire Southern Africa. However, Metix will continue with its basic philosophy to maintain valued relationships with our clients whilst extending our new services in a sustainable manner.

Active in plant construction and equipment supplies for the ferroalloy industry for almost ten years, Metix has carved out a leading market position for itself in Southern Africa, which when combined with SMS Siemag takes the group market share close to 50% of the world ferroalloys market.

The SMS group is internationally active in plant construction and mechanical engineering relating to the processing of steel and non-ferrous metals. The group is divided into the business areas SMS Siemag and SMS Meer. In 2010 the group employs approximately 9 600 people and had an order intake of approximately 3 billion Euro. The world leading submerged arc furnace technology of SMS Siemag is managed through the Düsseldorf office in Germany.

Whilst previously Metix concentrated mainly on supply of equipment and plants for the production of ferrochrome and ferromanganese, its merger with SMS Siemag will expand its range of with Si-metal, non-ferrous, precious metals, calcium carbide and TiO₂-slag. Metix will have access to new technology equipment and processes related to DC furnaces, rectangular furnaces, energy recovery systems and gas cleaning.

Metix can now offer complete plant concepts and associated performance guarantees based on the data base and track record of SMS Siemag. A new 1 MVA testing facility in Aachen Germany will allow the evaluation of single and multiple electrode configurations for AC and DC technology in the same furnace. Test campaigns will promote confidence in the correct technology decision and contribute to more accurate design references and process guarantees for new processes.

Despite the down turn in the world steel markets, to which the ferroalloy industry is linked, Metix has accumulated significant references during the past few years, both in pre-treatment of ore as well as technology equipment for new furnaces, furnace refurbishments and upgrades.

With regards to furnace technology equipment, Metix has been awarded various contracts throughout Southern Africa:

- Rebuild in progress on IFM's two 66MVA FeCr furnaces that includes new copper centre sections for the furnace roof, additional charging chutes (equipped with solid copper feed

chute tips) as well as modifications on the four furnace gas cleaning plants.

- Replacement of electrode columns on two furnaces at Xstrata's Lion plant.
- Supply and installation of a large secondary power factor correction system on one of the Lion furnaces.
- Upgrading of two SiMn furnaces for Mogale alloys. The Metix scope included new electrodes as well as new furnace roofs with a novel forced air cooling system.
- Replacement of electrode columns on two furnaces at Xstrata's Wonderkop plant.
- Upgrading of a ferrochrome furnace for Zimasco in Zimbabwe.
- Various studies on AC, DC and rectangular furnaces as well as expert investigations on FeCr, FeMn, SiMn, Pt and power supply.

Globally Metix has achieved the following:

- The construction of the biggest furnace in China for CYMCO is now almost complete. This 67,5MVA SiMn furnace is equipped with the full range of Metix technology equipment covering a set of electrodes, furnace roof including copper centre section, furnace shell complete with freeze lining. The freeze lining concept for furnace refractories is well proven in SA but relatively new to China.
- Bottom electrode assemblies for four 54MVA CaC₂ furnaces are under manufacture.
- Bottom electrode assemblies for two 36MVA FeSi furnaces also under manufacture.
- Bottom electrode assemblies for SARDA India were installed.
- Various studies for Russia, Canada and China.

Its latest major project in the pre-treatment of ores is a 600 000 tpa chromite ore pelletising and sinter plant, as part of the Tswelopele Project, being constructed for Xstrata Merafe PSV in Rustenburg. This is the sixth such plant constructed by Metix since its formation in 2003 and the third for Xstrata. Xstrata received the environmental ROD in the second quarter of 2011, construction started immediately and the plant will be ready for hot commissioning towards the end of the third quarter 2012.



SMS group

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Adding new value to our industry

AC furnace technology on CaC, Si metal, FeSi

DC furnace technology on FeCr, TiO₂

Rectangular furnace technology on Pt, Cu, FeNi

Energy recovery systems

Gas cleaning

