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PRESS RELEASE

Düsseldorf, May 18, 2017

Efficient and environmentally-friendly furnace technology

demanded by US-customers

**Nucor Steel Marion orders a new walking beam furnace from
SMS group**

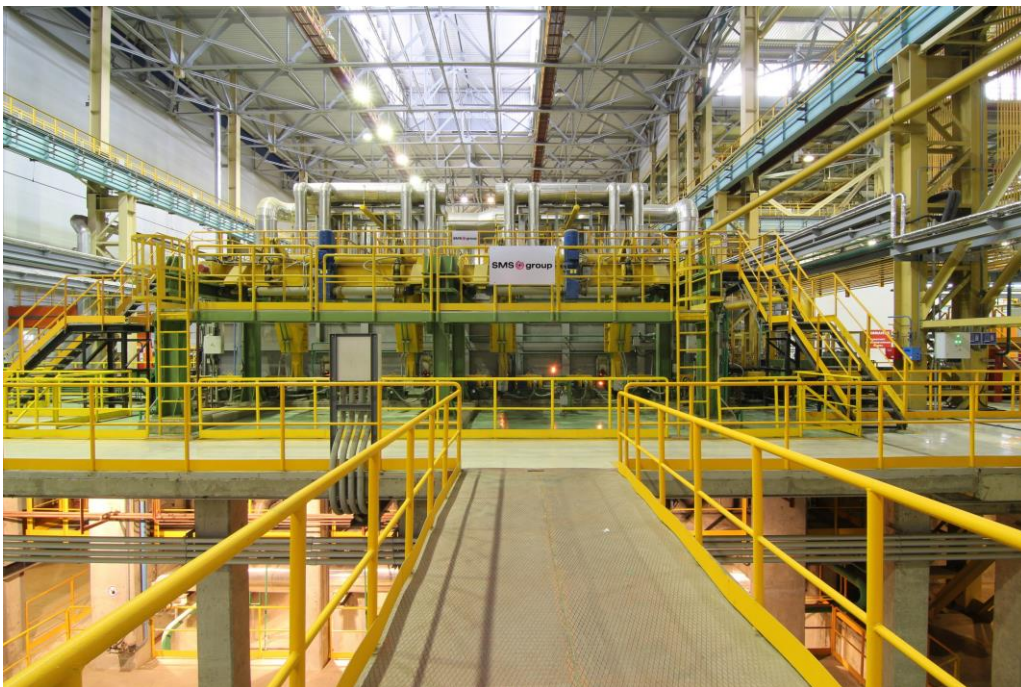
Nucor Steel Marion Inc., recently awarded SMS group www.sms-group.com with a purchase order for a walking beam furnace as part of the US\$ 85 million investment that the company is making to upgrade its bar mill in Marion, Ohio. The new reheating furnace represents the first and most important step of the broader modernization project, which will take approximately 18 months to complete. Nucor Steel Marion will be able to achieve improved temperature uniformity and, therefore, better rolling quality of the billets out of the new furnace.

The SMS group supply comprises a walking beam reheating furnace rated at 120 short tons (or 109 metric tons) of billets per hour, and includes loading and unloading billet handling equipment as well as ancillary services such as electric & automation and a dedicated water treatment plant.

The new furnace will be split into several combustion zones, controlled independently and responding to the sophisticated and renowned SMSPrometheus software for heating optimization and digitally controlled extra low NOx burners.

With this new order, SMS group proves once more its foothold in the U.S.A. as one of the leading furnace makers, with eleven references, among new furnaces and modernizations, accomplished in the last ten years.

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The furnace in Marion will be the third one supplied by SMS group to Nucor in the last few years.

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.