

## PRESS RELEASE

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Pittsburgh, October 2019

### **North Star BlueScope selects SMS group Inc. for supply of new continuous casting equipment**

North Star BlueScope Steel, located in Delta, Ohio, has selected SMS group Inc. ([www.sms-group.us](http://www.sms-group.us)) as the supplier for its new single-strand thin slab continuous caster. The new casting machine will have a thickness range of 95-110 mm and a width range of 900-1595 mm. It will allow the overall caster production of the existing facility to increase from 2.4 million short tons annually to over 3.6 million short tons per year.

The modifications performed by SMS group to the existing casting strand, as well as the ongoing maintenance of this equipment over the last decade, differentiated SMS group for the supply of the primary casting equipment. SMS is also uniquely positioned to address the challenge of designing the new casting equipment to be interchangeable with the existing casting strand.

The scope of supply includes the complete cast floor equipment, 2 cylinder hydraulic oscillator, and vertical with liquid bending caster containment followed by a pendulum shear to cut the strand into slabs. Specific technological upgrades to the new casting machine include X-Pact Width control, width-dependent air mist secondary cooling, X-Pact Solid Control thermal model, Level 2 X-Pact Cast Optimizer and HD mold-TC mold monitoring system.

A digitalization package consisting of the SMS Data Factory will also be supplied by SMS digital. The infrastructure will allow for immediate capability of data-driven Business Intelligence at the caster, and allow future data to be incorporated for ongoing enhancements in quality, production, and asset cost reductions

The anticipated start-up of the new casting strand is set for 2021.

North Star BlueScope is owned by BlueScope, a leading international supplier of steel products and building solutions found in the global building and construction industry based in Melbourne, Australia. North Star BlueScope has relied on SMS group's cutting edge technological advancements, mechanical know-how and mill equipment upgrade for many years. This latest order marks the next step in a successful cooperation between both companies.

SMS group is a group of companies internationally active in plant construction and mechanical engineering for the steel and nonferrous metals industry. It has some 14,000 employees who generate worldwide sales of more than EUR 3 billion. The sole owner of the holding company SMS GmbH is the Familie Weiss Foundation.