

Jiangbei Steel Processing Orders Welded Tube Plant

Jiangbei Steel Processing and Logistics Co. Ltd., part of the Chinese WISCO steel group, has recently placed an order with SMS Meer, a company of the SMS group, Germany, to build a high-frequency welded tube plant. According to the company, the continuous welding line in Wuhan, China, on the Yangtze River will be the largest of its kind in the world. At the end of 2008, it is scheduled to go into operation and will then produce up to 350,000 tons of pipes per year.

The pipes to be produced will have diameters from 244 to 660 mm (9.6 to 26 in.) with wall thicknesses up to 24 mm (0.9 in.). They will have a maximum length of 18.5 m (60 ft). The delivered coils will be up to 2.13 m (7 ft) in width and weigh about 45 tons.

The plant will produce pipes for the oil and gas industry and for the building sector. In addition, it is designed to produce structurals and square/rectangular hollow sections required in the construction industry in dimensions up to 500 × 500 mm (20 × 20 in.) and 600 × 400 mm (24 × 16in.), respectively.

Great Lakes Air Systems Joins with Praxair, Bureau Veritas to Educate Industry

Great Lakes Air Systems, Columbus, Ohio, has begun work with Praxair and Bureau Veritas to help educate and offer solutions designed to assist potential and current customers in complying with hexavalent chromium exposure levels.

"The collaboration among these three companies allows us all to offer the best solutions to those dealing with this issue at the plant level," said Jim Reid, vice president of Great Lakes Air Systems. "It gives the opportunity to troubleshoot before they become OSHA violations."

Together they can address diagnosis, process, or material change, engineering controls, and a continual compliance plan based upon the needs of each facility.

Alcoa Launches Innovation Web Site to Showcase Technology Solutions for Design Engineers

Alcoa, Pittsburgh, Pa., has launched a new technology Web site at www.alcoa.com/innovation with detailed scientific information on aluminum and other light metals that will help design engineers develop new products.

The site features a growing database of the company's patents and scientific research papers. Scientists, engineers, and product development specialists can search the Alcoa technology library for solutions in metal coating, casting forming, alloys, structure, and design to develop new applications. Also, it highlights the company's global innovation network of collaboration with universities and external partners.

Magna Car Top Systems Expands Manufacturing Footprint and Capabilities in North America

Magna Car Top Systems, an operating unit of Magna International Inc., Aurora, Ont., Canada, has recently completed the acquisition of certain manufacturing assets and equipment, including a leased facility located in Toluca, Mexico.

The facility, Magna Car Top Systems de Mexico, S.A. de C.V., manufactures and assembles convertible tops for several General Motors vehicles. It is 276,000 sq ft, employs 309 people, and the current capabilities include stamping, machining, coating, cutting and sewing, welding, and convertible top final assembly.

Northwest Pipe to Supply \$10 Million of Steel Pipe

Northwest Pipe Co., Portland, Ore., has been named as pipe supplier by S. J. Louis Construction of Waite Park, Minn., for the Folsom South Canal-Clay Station to Jack Tone Road Pipeline for the East Bay Municipal Utility District near Sacramento, Calif.

The company will supply approximately 33,000 ft of steel pipe valued at approximately \$10 million for an engineered and custom-fabricated piping system. Delivery is scheduled to begin in the first quarter of 2008, and the pipe is expected to be manufactured in the company's Adelanto, Calif., and Portland, Ore., divisions.

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