

## PRESS RELEASE

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# Hertwich to supply fully automatic sawing line for aluminum billets to Century Aluminium

American producer Century Aluminum has placed an order with Hertwich Engineering GmbH, Austria, a subsidiary of SMS group, for a fully automatic sawing line for aluminum billets. The line, which also includes systems for stacking and packing the billets, is intended for Century's site in Sebree, Kentucky, where another Hertwich saw has been in use since the year 2000.



Illustration of a comparable fully automatic sawing and strapping line.

Century Aluminum Company is the largest manufacturer of primary aluminum products in the United States. The aluminum smelter in Sebree has a production capacity

of around 220,000 metric tons per year. This is more than a quarter of the company's total output. "One saw from Hertwich has been proving its worth at the US facility for over 20 years. Now another latest-generation line from Hertwich is being added. Trust must be earned, and that's something we achieved exceptionally well here," says Gerold Keune, CEO of Hertwich Engineering.

The investment in the second sawing line from Hertwich aims to further enhance the Kentucky facility's operational efficiency. It is scheduled to go into service in 2024 and will replace an older line. The new Hertwich saw not only boasts higher productivity, it also requires less manpower. Its energy yield is also outstanding: the efficiency of the saw's state-of-the-art electric motors meets the premium requirements of current US regulations.

The line can process aluminum billets with a diameter of between seven and twelve inches. It has an hourly capacity of up to 225 short billets with a maximum length of 1.60 meters, or 60 long billets with a maximum length of 6.10 meters. After sawing, the aluminum billets can be weighed – ready for calibration – and stacked side by side and on top of each other using so-called transfer cars. The billets are then tied with PET straps and placed on supporting timber blocks so that they can be picked up and loaded by forklift truck. The billets, which are sawn to length, are further processed in press shops into profiles for the automotive or aerospace industries.

SMS group is renowned worldwide for its future-oriented technologies and outstanding service for the metals industry. The company applies its 150 years of experience and its digital know-how to provide the industry continuously with innovative products and processes – even beyond its core business – and generates worldwide sales of around 2.6 billion euros. SMS is the right partner for challenging projects, and supports its customers throughout the lifecycle of their plants, enabling profitable and resource-efficient value creation chains. Paving the way for a carbon-neutral and sustainable metals industry is the company's stated goal. As a global player with German roots, SMS takes

responsibility for its 14,500 employees.

*Hertwich Engineering, a company of the SMS group is renowned for its future-oriented, energy saving technologies and outstanding service in aluminium casthouse. The company is active worldwide with design, supply, construction and commissioning of special machinery and equipment for the Aluminium industry. Hertwich is competent for supplying complete Al-casthouse on a turnkey basis (one-stop-shopping). The product range comprises melting equipment for aluminium scrap, conti and batch homogenizing plants, sawing plants, horizontal and vertical casting machines and quality inspection stations, etc. To stay ahead Hertwich relies on its own R&D and proprietary know-how. For 50 years, the advanced technology has revolutionized the industry and the company maintains its worldwide lead.*