

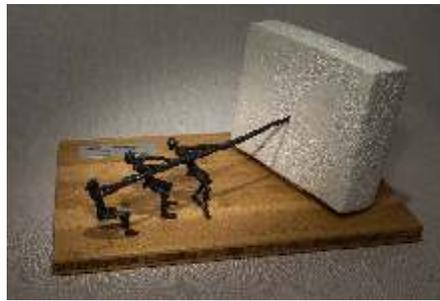


## APT Group inaugurated 27-MN aluminum extrusion press

**A**pt Extrusions GmbH & Co. KG, domiciled at Monheim in Germany, inaugurated a new 27-MN front-loading press supplied by SMS group.

“The new 27-MN extrusion press from SMS group replaces the existing 20-MN press. The scope also comprises related billet heating equipment including an extrutec GmbH gas heating furnace combined with an IAS induction furnace and a new runout system from OMAV. apt selected SMS group as supplier of the extrusion press for reasons of safety, energy efficiency, productivity and product quality. All of these factors had played a crucial role in apt’s future orientation towards the production of aluminum profiles for the automotive and construction industries as well as for industrial customers”, emphasized Thomas Boddenberg, Managing Director of apt Extrusions GmbH & Co. KG, in his address.

Thomas Brockmann, Senior Engineer Machinery & Equipment at apt, praised the excellent cooperation with all partners involved in the project and pointed out the extremely efficient



(right), presented to Thomas Boddenberg a sculpture symbolizing the successful project work. Essential parts are the result of cooperating with Essential partners (see photo). Performing such a challenging project on schedule and on a high quality level was possible only on the basis of a close and cooperative partnership of SMS group, further project partners and apt.

project work rendered by SMS group. The project commenced on December 16, 2017. As early as on January 18, 2018, the first hot aluminum billet could be extruded, and on January 29, 2018, the press started to operate in three shifts. Within this period, the old facility was dismantled and loaded, and all items of the new press line were installed. The extrusion press package also covered fully automatic handling equipment with the OMAV flying cut saw permitting 500-millimeter samples to be taken during ongoing production.

At the handover ceremony, Dr. Thomas Winterfeldt, Executive Vice President Forging Plants at SMS group

apt Group’s business units are aluminum extrusion and further processing. About 1,000 employees at sites in Germany, The Netherlands and Czech Republic generate annual sales of approx. 250 million Euros. Operating six extrusion press lines, state-of-the-art processing facilities and three anodizing plants, apt ranks among the market leaders in Western Europe’s aluminum sector. The company supplies its products to reputed customers in the fields of construction, transportation and industry. The portfolio includes demanding aluminum profiles, which are partly processed and refined, as well as aluminum products and systems.

## TMK-ARTROM Starts Production on New Heat Treatment Line



**T**MK-ARTROM based in Slatina, Romania, granted SMS group the final acceptance certificate (FAC) for the supplied tube and pipe heat treatment line. Designed for an annual capacity of 160,000 tons, the new heat treatment line will be used for the production of seamless high-strength pipes up to a wall thickness of 60 millimeters for mechanical applications as well as of special OCTG pipes (oil country tubular goods).

During final acceptance testing, some very outstanding results were achieved: in particular, it was possible to quench a pipe of steel grade 4140 of 50 millimeters wall thickness, reaching 90 percent of martensite without generating any cracks in the pipe, as the ultrasonic test confirmed. Such result is enabled by the precision and performance of the control system of SMS group quenching devices. According to TMK-ARTROM, currently no other pipe producer is able to reach these results with a water based-quench. “SMS group has confirmed its longstanding experience and reliability as a partner able to successfully deal with technological challenges like this commissioning at TMK-ARTROM,” states Cristian Drinciu, COO of TMK-ARTROM.

The project mainly consisted of the supply of an austenitizing furnace with

walking beam transport system, a cooling quenching head, a quenching tank, a walking beam tempering furnace and a cooling bed. The line allows carrying out various process steps, such as quenching, normalizing and tempering. SMS group also supplied a ten-roll straightening machine arranged downstream of the tempering furnace, which guarantees straightening results of 0.9 millimeter per meter for the pipe end and 0.8 millimeter per meter for the pipe body. The column design and group drives are a proven design which allows easy maintenance and quick and easy tool changing.

The presence of two separate quenching systems makes this heat treatment line extremely flexible. It features an outside sprayer primarily intended for small pipes and fast production rates and a special tank for processing the heavier-walled tubes.