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Spotlight On

Schulz Group of Companies Schulz Xtruded Products – New Seamless Pipe Mill Ready for the Future

After investing USD 300 million in Tunica, Mississippi, U.S.A, last year, the Schulz Group of Companies says it will soon complete construction of their new seamless pipe mill. The plant will start production of seamless pipes in stainless and high alloyed steels in the 3rd quarter 2011, announced the German pipe and fitting manufacturer recently.



Schulz offers a full range of seamless metallurgical bonded clad pipes and fittings up to 14" in diameter.

Tunica, Mississippi – Schulz Biggest Investment Ever

The decision to build a new manufacturing plant in Tunica was a real milestone in the company's forward thinking strategy. "We are on the threshold of making the biggest investment in our sixty-five-year company history," says Vice-President Joachim Wickenkamp about the investment. "In March 2010 work started with the ground breaking of our new state-of-the-art seamless pipe mill in Tunica, Mississippi, U.S.A." The mill, called Schulz Xtruded Products, will produce large diameter seamless pipes in a wide variety of stainless, higher alloys and will also produce metallurgical-bonded seamless clad pipes. The seamless clad pipes will be used in applications such as deepwater oil and gas fields, and for refineries processing sour oil and gas.

Production for the new facility has been split into two phases. When finishing the first phase, Schulz Xtruded Products (SXP) will be able to produce seamless pipes from 8" up to 24" O.D. SCH 10S through SCH 160 in

lengths of 12m (40ft) or even longer. Capacity is planned for 20,000 tons a year, and the plant will be operational within the third quarter of 2011. SXP also plans to implement a new manufacturing process to produce pipe used for oilfield applications. This new process for manufacturing seamless



Installing machinery will soon be complete.

extruded metallurgical-bonded clad pipe can be considered a breakthrough in extrusion processes and material science, asserts the company. In the second phase, scheduled for completion in 2015, production of pipes up to at least 32" is planned, perhaps even larger. The Schulz Group's new SXP Mississippi plant will employ around 500 people.

Being a global player, it is interesting to look at why the Schulz Group of Companies has chosen a site in the USA as opposed to setting up a plant in a low-cost country. The planning of the project took nearly ten years. The company chose to invest in the U.S. because much of the company business comes from high-end markets, which in turn demand the talents of highly skilled engineers. In Tunica, the SXP facilities use technologies which are second-to-none and which have not been applied in such a way before. Additionally, the company says that when it was decided to build the plant several sites in various locations around the world were carefully reviewed. However, the response Schulz received from the USA was most encouraging. After considering many options, the company's top choice, in view

of the location, situation, people and environment, came down to Tunica, Mississippi.

Sound Technical Solutions

By combining their metallurgical know-how with the experience of multinational oil and gas companies the Schulz Group has built up a sound reputation for new technical solutions and second-to-



Construction started after groundbreaking in March 2010.

none technologies. When Brazil-based Petrobras launched a huge investment program to modernize their old refineries and to build several new ones, the Schulz Group of Companies executed many R&D orders for Petrobras and specified the demands for these refineries. In the newly discovered deepwater fields, oil & gas are often hidden thousands of meters under the sea where pressures are extremely high and the crude is very sour. For these special projects Schulz' customers definitely benefit from the company's extensive metallurgical know-how. Here, for such applications, Schulz has developed special seamless bimetal clad pipes, SX-Clad, which are metallurgically bonded. SX-Clad pipes are perfectly suitable for all different applications in the offshore and refinery sector.

More capacity and knowledge, more service and sales power: all in all, the Schulz Group of Companies is ready to meet the needs of a whole range of highly demanding international projects, and to face the challenges of the coming years with verve. The manufacturing plant is the first Schulz mill in North America, while

the company currently operates three mills in Germany, two in Brazil and distribution centers all over the world.

Facilities in Houston, Texas

These distribution centers and additional large warehouses scattered around the world enable the Schulz Group of Companies to keep distances and delivery times short – thereby enhancing intensive partnerships on a daily basis. In Houston, Texas, where the name Schulz U.S.A. Inc. has been well known for over twenty-five years, Schulz runs a warehouse and offices of around 7,500 square meters and a pipe yard of approximately 16,000 square meters. Here, Schulz U.S.A. Inc. keeps stocks of pipes, fittings and flanges in 304/L, 316/L, 317/L, 321/H, 347/H, duplex and super duplex. Welded pipe starting from 8" up to 24" O.D. that is being produced by Schulz Brazil is one of the key items on stock. The Schulz teams in Houston and Calgary serve a whole range of customers working in the oil & gas, chemical and petrochemical, water treatment, nuclear, and many other industries in Canada, Mexico and the US.



SXP's in-line production will take place in a production hall which is longer than 400m.

Fact & Figures

Name:	Schulz Group of Companies
Products:	Welded and seamless pipes, pipe fittings, forged fittings
Materials:	Standard stainless steels, special stainless steels, high nickel alloys, duplex and super duplex steels, 6 MO grades, super austenitics, titanium alloys, clad steels, CuNi grades, low alloys and carbon steels
Industries:	Water treatment, desalination, oil and gas, nuclear, chemical, petrochemical
Employees:	Approximately 500 employees worldwide
Website:	www.wschulz.com