

Dornach, 8 August 2006

## New Extrusion Press: Foundations Laid

### Significant milestone achieved in major investment project

As part of Swissmetal's major three-year project of investment in a new extrusion press for its Swiss plants, the machinery foundations have now been constructed. The foundations cover an area of approx. 2,500 m<sup>3</sup> and are capable of supporting a 480 ton extrusion press from the German manufacturer SMS Eumuco. Construction work is currently in full progress on the 90 x 40 x 12m hall to house the press. The steel construction for the new hall weighs around 371 tons and the rebars for the foundations approximately 152 tons. Work on the hall should be completed by September. The extrusion press should arrive in Dornach this December.



Note: this and further photos of the building for the extrusion press in Dornach can be ordered at Swissmetal as separate file. Please contact [lucie.lusa@swissmetal.com](mailto:lucie.lusa@swissmetal.com) or by phone +41 61 705 3636.

In February 2005, Swissmetal took the decision to invest in a new extrusion press. This investment is an essential part of the restructuring process at Swissmetal, designed to ensure the company's long-term success as a producer of high-quality specialty products from copper and copper alloys. With a press force of 5,000 tons, the new extrusion press will enable Swissmetal to significantly boost productivity in relation to many of its existing products, while at the same time allowing important innovation projects – that are currently beyond the capacity of the existing extrusion presses at Swissmetal – to be implemented. Harder alloys and difficult-to-extrude materials can thus be processed with greater precision and using a higher degree of automation. The technical design of the new press is such that it can be used to manufacture all of Swissmetal's important product groups. The press is scheduled to commence production in summer 2007.

Swissmetal is global technology leader in high-quality specialty products made from copper and copper alloys, which are mainly used in the electronics, telecommunications, aviation, automotive, stationery and watch industries. In the 2005 financial year the company generated sales of CHF 198 million. At the end of July 2006 it employed a workforce of 878 FTEs, including the acquired plant in Lüdenscheid (D) in February 2006. Swissmetal is listed on SWX Swiss Exchange. With development and production sites in Reconvilier (CH), Dornach (CH) and Lüdenscheid (D). With its own sales offices in Italy, Germany and America, plus a global network of agents and dealers, Swissmetal delivers to clients in Europe, North America and Asia.

Contact:  
Lucie Lusa, Manager Corporate Communications  
Tel: +41 61 705 3636