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PRESS RELEASE

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LOI Italimpianti Tenova supplies advanced rotary hearth furnace for Daimler

LOI Thermprocess, an LOI Italimpianti Tenova company, has been awarded a contract by Daimler AG. A new rotary hearth furnace with zone separation for the carburizing and hardening of gears is to be supplied for the Mercedes Benz plant in Rastatt. This will be the second furnace of this type to be installed by LOI Italimpianti at this plant.

Under the contract, LOI Italimpianti is to supply, install and commission the furnace. The rotary hearth furnace, due to be completed in June 2009, is to feature one of the most advanced furnace technologies. Thanks to the intermediate doors installed, it will be possible to operate the carburizing zone at high carbon potentials, reducing the cycle time required by about 25% compared with a furnace not equipped with intermediate doors.

The furnace is to be designed for a throughput of 1700 kg/h. Three gears with a maximum diameter of 300 mm will be positioned on a charging tray, then heat-treated on stacked ceramic charge carriers and quenched in a three-station hardening press. The discharging time, including the charging of the hardening press, individual quenching and the charging of the tray with new gears, will be about 120 seconds.

LOI Italimpianti is a leading supplier of industrial furnaces and services for the metal industry. Tenova designs and supplies advanced technologies, products and services for the metal and mining industries. Tenova operates close to its customers through a network of 30 companies based in 16 different countries. For more information visit our website at www.tenovagroup.com.

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