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## **Essar Steel orders LOI Italimpianti Tenova furnace technology for steel plate production**

The Indian Essar Group has awarded LOI Thermprocess, an LOI Italimpianti Tenova company, a contract for three new furnaces to be used for various types of heat treatment for steel plates at its Hazira plant in the State of Gujarat.

The contract includes a normalizing furnace as well as a quenching and tempering line comprising an austenitizing furnace with continuous quench facility and downstream tempering furnace.

The furnaces, which will be designed for a capacity of up to 55 t/h depending on the process used, are due to be commissioned within only 16 months by April 2009.

The normalizing line will consist of a roller hearth furnace with a length of 70 m and will be designed to treat steel plates with thicknesses from 5 to 50 (max. 75) mm, widths up to 4.9 m and lengths up to 25 m at normalizing temperatures between 880 and 950°C.

When it has been commissioned, the quenching and tempering line will be the most advanced heat treatment facility for steel plates in India. The line will feature a roller hearth furnace with a length of 43 m and a continuous quench facility. Steel plates with thicknesses from 5 to 50 (max. 75) mm, widths up to 4.9 m and lengths up to 25 m will initially be heated to the austenitizing temperature of 880 to 950 °C, then quenched and martensitically hardened in the quench facility. The material will be treated to obtain the toughness required in the downstream tempering furnace, which will be 64 m long.

The plant will be fully automated by LOI, including the control of heating systems and a material tracking program. An optimization computer will adapt furnace operation to load conditions in order to minimize energy consumption, scale formation and losses and to ensure the highest possible surface quality.

Demand for high-strength, wear-resistant steel plates throughout the world is so strong that this is already the sixth contract for steel plate quenching and tempering lines awarded to LOI Italmimpianti in the space of a year.

LOI Italmimpianti 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](http://www.tenovagroup.com).

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