

Press release – November 27, 2023

Driving the future of the automotive industry

Vardhman Special Steels, one of India's leading manufacturers of special and alloy steels, entrusted Fives to design and supply a new reheating furnace for its Ludhiana plant, in the state of Punjab. The new technology will enable the reheating of special steel billets that are rolled into bars for the automotive market.

Reheating technology for new markets

Vardhman Special Steels was experiencing issues with poor billet heating, scale loss, and high emissions from its existing reheating furnace. At the same time, they needed a solution to deliver high-quality products to meet the increasingly demanding requirements of automobile manufacturers.

“Our goal was to supply special steel bars, which are currently being imported, to Indian carmakers to manufacture crankshafts and camshafts locally. We wanted an advanced technology as special steel grade heating requires specific expertise,” says **Sachit Jain, Vice Chairman & Managing Director at Vardhman Special Steels.**

Fives will provide Vardhman Special Steels with a new walking beam furnace – [Stein Digit@l Furnace®](#) – that will reheat billets with a production capacity of 45 tonnes per hour. The new furnace will increase the productivity of the plant to 300,000 tonnes per year and enable the localization of production and expansion of the business portfolio in Asia and Europe. Production of the first billet is scheduled for April 2025.

New generation burners for greater flexibility

The reheating furnace will be equipped with the latest generation [AdvanTek®](#) burners, which operate at full power and only for the time necessary to cover the heat demand. This advanced combustion system will provide high environmental performance, ultra-low NOx emissions, uniform heat distribution, and operational flexibility.

“We are proud to support Vardhman Special Steels in this strategic development. Recent advancements in our technology allow us to meet the current needs of steel manufacturers who target new markets, such as the automotive industry. We are committed to providing innovative solutions that contribute to the future of our industry,” says **Arup Majumder, Assistant General Manager at Fives Stein India Projects**, a subsidiary of Fives Group in India.

About Fives

As an industrial engineering Group with a heritage of over 200 years, Fives designs and supplies machines, process equipment and production lines for the world's largest industrial players in various sectors such as steel, aerospace and special machining, aluminium, automotive and manufacturing industries, cement, energy, logistics and glass. In 2022, Fives achieved €2 billion of sales and employed close to 8,500 people in 25 countries.

In the steel industry, Fives offers process expertise, ground-breaking technologies and digital solutions, supporting steel and tube manufacturers' ability to achieve the ultimate in performance excellence, including:

- Customer strategic development support
- Ultra-low NOx reheating furnaces
- Advanced cold rolling mills
- Complete strip processing lines for carbon (including AHSS and UHSS), stainless and silicon steel
- Unique transverse flux and longitudinal induction heating technologies
- High-quality ERW tube mills and finishing equipment
- A full range of services: process optimization, upgrades, modernization, training and maintenance assistance

Press contacts:

Fives – Steel & Glass Division:

Natalia Artemieva

+33 6 11 56 19 28

natalia.artemieva@fivesgroup.com

Fives Group:

Emmanuelle Gendry

+ 33 6 79 44 63 49

emmanuelle.gendry@fivesgroup.com

