



Schmolz + Bickenbach USA Opens South Carolina Facility To Serve Rapidly Growing Southeastern Markets

Carol Stream, IL, Dec. 6, 2006 – Schmolz+Bickenbach USA will open a new distribution facility in Greer, SC to better serve the rapidly growing industrial base of automotive OEMS and suppliers in the southeastern United States.

The facility, which will begin operations in January, 2007, will stock primarily cold work and hot work tool steels as well as plastic mold steels. It will become the seventh Schmolz+Bickenbach operational location in North America.

“Our newest location will provide better access and quicker deliveries for customers that use our THYROPLAST® plastic mold steels and THYRODUR® cold work die steels,” said Tony Elfstrom, President and CEO of SCHMOLZ+BICKENBACH USA and Canada. “Locating in the Greenville/Spartanburg area will provide improved service to the many tool and die shops, as well as plastic mold builders in the region.”

The opening of the new warehouse will coincide with the company changing its name from Swiss Steel International NA to SCHMOLZ+BICKENBACH USA, Inc. and SCHMOLZ+BICKENBACH Canada, Inc., as part of a global corporate branding by its parent, SCHMOLZ+BICKENBACH AG. The company maintains additional North American processing and distribution facilities in Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Minneapolis, and Toronto as well as a heat treatment plant in Windsor, Ontario.

SCHMOLZ+BICKENBACH AG now has a global distribution network in 24 countries, total sales of \$4.1 billion (USD) and a workforce of more than 10,000 employees. The company has a global production capacity of 2.75 million metric tons and is the largest producer of stainless long products, second-largest producer of tool steels and a European market leader in engineering steels.

The South Carolina distribution center will be located at:

1425C South Buncombe Rd.
Greer, SC 29651-6517
864-968-5101

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