

SCHMOLZ+BICKENBACH Release
November 13, 2006

**Swiss Steel International NA Becomes
SCHMOLZ+BICKENBACH USA, Inc.
SCHMOLZ+BICKENBACH Canada, Inc.**

Name change unifies corporate identity around the world

Carol Stream, IL, Nov. xx, 2006 -- Swiss Steel International NA will become SCHMOLZ+BICKENBACH USA, Inc. and SCHMOLZ+BICKENBACH Canada, Inc., effective Jan. 1, 2007, as part of a global corporate branding by its parent, SCHMOLZ+BICKENBACH AG.

“There is no change of ownership. This is simply a desire to unify the global corporate identity of the companies involved in production, processing and distribution as a result of recent acquisitions by the SCHMOLZ+BICKENBACH Group in other parts of the world,” said Tony Elfstrom, President and CEO of SCHMOLZ+BICKENBACH USA and Canada. “We have been part of the SCHMOLZ+BICKENBACH Group for more than a year, and we will continue to focus on supplying the highest quality Tooling Materials, Heat Treatment and Value Added Services to our valued North American customers.”

SCHMOLZ+BICKENBACH in North America will continue marketing their products under the current brand names – such as THYROTHERM® hot work die steels, THYROPLAST® plastic mold steels and THYRODUR® cold work die steels – but will underscore the corporate identity with a new logo and the tagline, “Providing special steel solutions.”

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.

SCHMOLZ+BICKENBACH AG have planned for significant capital investments in their production and distribution facilities over the next few years. In accordance with their US Market Development Plans SCHMOLZ+BICKENBACH USA will open a new Tooling Materials distribution facility in the Greenville / Spartanburg SC area in January 2007. 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.

For more information about SCHMOLZ+BICKENBACH visit: www.schmolz-bickenbach.com.

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