

Paris, January 16, 2024

Aubert & Duval invests €75 million to commission a new forging press

Bruno Durand, Chairman and CEO of Aubert & Duval signed yesterday an agreement with the German company SMS group for the purchase of a new forging press for the Pamiers site in Ariège. Worth a total of €75 million, the project for this new tool is at the heart of the group's vision: make Aubert & Duval the leading European metallurgical company, notably for the aerospace, nuclear and defense sectors.

With its 6,000-ton capacity and extensive modularity, this tool will enable Aubert & Duval to:

- **Strengthen its position in large parts for the aerospace industry** (structural parts, landing gear, engine shafts and disks);
- **Position itself for the next generation of civil and military aircrafts and engines** by developing innovative metallurgical processes such as isothermal forging and quasi-isothermal forging.

The new press is scheduled to be operational in 2027. It will then replace one of the site's historic presses, known as the "Schloemann press". Thanks to a modern and robotized environment this new press will enable substantial improvements for all the production lines currently operated by the Schloemann press.

Its modularity will enable it to accommodate an isothermal forging module which will allow the production of ultra-high-performance aerospace parts based on powder metallurgy.

This new press will also contribute to the company's decarbonization objectives, thanks to its much higher energy efficiency than its predecessor.

Bruno Durand, CEO of Aubert & Duval: *"This major investment paves the way for Aubert & Duval's future in the medium and very long term. In the service of our customers, our first objective is to modernize and drastically improve our industrial performance. But to make Aubert & Duval the European metallurgist of reference we need to look further ahead and anticipate future technical developments: this is also the vocation of this new tool. We would like to thank our shareholders who, through this investment, demonstrate the confidence and ambition they place in the company and its teams."*

AUBERT & DUVAL

Aubert & Duval is one of the world's leading producers and processors of complex metallic materials (special steels, superalloys, titanium, aluminum). It is owned in equal parts by Airbus, Safran and the Tikehau Capital fund. Serving strategic industries such as aeronautics, space, defense and energy, Aubert & Duval provides its customers with a comprehensive production chain, ranging from materials design to forged blank parts, enabling them to secure their supply chain and meet their decarbonization challenges. www.aubertduval.com

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SMS GROUP

SMS group is renowned worldwide for its future-oriented technologies and outstanding service for the metals industry. The company applies its 150 years of experience and its digital know-how to provide the industry continuously with innovative products and processes – even beyond its core business – and generates worldwide sales of around 3.1 billion euros. SMS is the right partner for challenging projects, and supports its customers throughout the lifecycle of their plants, enabling profitable and resource-efficient value creation chains. Paving the way for a carbon-neutral and sustainable metals industry is the company's stated goal. As a global player with German roots, SMS takes responsibility for its 14,400 employees. www.sms-group.com

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