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ATTN: Chief of Staff/News Editor
For immediate release

New ALWA Air Separation Unit in Kwinana to meet growing demand

Air Liquide WA Pty Ltd (ALWA) will build a new Air Separation Unit (ASU) in Kwinana, 40 kilometres south of Perth, to meet growing demand for oxygen and nitrogen from the oil and gas, mining, manufacturing, medical and scientific sectors in Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

The company currently operates an ASU in Kwinana that produces nitrogen, oxygen and argon, and has a production capacity of more than 700 tonnes per day (tpd). It is the only local source of high-purity argon for the WA and NT markets.

The new facility will have a production capacity of up to 400 tpd, strengthening ALWA's growing position in the industrial, medical and scientific gas market in WA and the NT.

Design work on the new ASU has been completed, and long-lead items are currently being manufactured. Subject to relevant regulatory approvals, construction of the new ASU by Air Liquide Engineering is expected to start later this year, with commissioning to be completed in 2014.

Construction is expected to generate local employment of around 50 jobs.

Alexandre Dufour, ALWA General Manager, said:

“This additional production capacity will enable ALWA to further support the growth of the industrial gas market in WA and the NT, and the new ASU will have the same capability as our existing facility to produce both liquid and gaseous oxygen and nitrogen to remain responsive to specific customer needs.”

“ALWA will continue to offer flexible delivery options, including direct supply through the Kwinana oxygen and nitrogen pipeline network to customers in the Kwinana Industrial Area, as well as bulk and packaged supply for all WA and NT customers.”

Air Liquide WA Pty Ltd (ALWA) is a partnership company between Wesfarmers Limited and Air Liquide Australia Ltd; a wholly owned subsidiary of Air Liquide - the world leader in gases for industry, health and the environment.

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