

Media Release

18th May 2007

BOC India declares results for 2006-07 Board recommends 25% dividend

Kolkata, 18th May 2007:BOC India limited, now a member of The Linde Group declared its audited financial results for the year ended 31st March 2007 today. The Company ended the year by registering a turnover of Rs. 496.58 crores.

Profit before tax for the year stood at Rs. 68.06 crores which includes an extraordinary profit amounting to Rs. 24.29 crores from sale of immovable property at Chennai. This profit is also after providing for a one-time additional depreciation of Rs. 8.93 crores. The additional depreciation arises from a revision in the depreciation rates based on the assessment of the estimated useful life of the fixed assets, affecting largely the Industrial & Special Gases (I&SP) segment of the gases business. Net profit after tax for the year stood at Rs.44.60 crores.

The Board of Directors have recommended a dividend of 25% for the financial year ended 31st March 2007.

The gases business of the Company, in particular the I&SP segment performed well during the year registering a 8.5% growth in revenues.

The merchant gases business of the Company received a boost with the commissioning of the 855 tons per day ASU at Bellary, by Bellary Oxygen Company Pvt. Ltd., a joint venture company of BOC India. The product made available from the plant helped the Company win new businesses in the southern region.

The turnover and profits of the Company for the year has been adversely impacted due to technical problems at the 1290 tonnes per day plant at Jamshedpur. The Company has taken a shutdown of the plant, in the first week of May 2007 for repairs, which are currently in progress. This is likely to impact the performance of the Company during the current quarter.

During the year, the Company continued to pursue supply scheme opportunities for growing its gases business. Significant wins include a 1800 tpd plant for JSW Steel Ltd. at Bellary, Karnataka and a 100 tpd plant for Adhunik Metaliks at Rourkela, Orissa.

The Project Engineering Division, an integral part of the PGS business continued to perform well backed by a robust order book position. The Division is presently engaged amongst other projects, in the execution of a 1250 tonnes per day ASU at Bokaro, in addition to the construction of BOC India's own 1800 tonnes per day ASU for JSW Steel Ltd. at Bellary.

Pursuant to its strategy of expanding geographic reach, the Company commissioned new liquid compression stations at Pune in the west and Trichy in southern India. These new plants will enable the Company tap into the rapidly expanding automobile and fabrication markets in these areas.

The medical business of the Company continued to perform well with great support lent by Medical Engineering Services.

The Company continued to foray into new products. Launches during the year include refrigerant gases and an entry into the welding equipment business. The Company introduced its new range of TIG & MIG welding machines along with a host of other welding accessories and safety equipment. With this launch, the Company has established itself as a complete solutions provider to the welding industry, ranging from gases to equipment.

Commenting on the performance **Mr. ER Raj Narayanan, Managing Director, BOC India Limited** said, "This year has been a challenging one for us with plant issues affecting performance. However, a number of business initiatives which are currently progressing will improve operational efficiencies, enhance customer service levels, and reduce overheads. The Company is also aggressively pursuing growth opportunities. With these initiatives, the Company will be well poised to deliver a better performance in the future."

Safety is the number one priority for BOC India. Committed to the Group safety mission of "Being a Company that does not want to harm people or the environment", the Company continued to take several initiatives during the year to deliver on its safety agenda.

About The Linde Group: The Linde Group is a world leading industrial gases and engineering company with more than 53,000 employees working in around 70 countries worldwide. Following the acquisition of The BOC Group the company has gases and engineering sales of approximately €12 billion. The strategy of The Linde Group is geared towards earnings-based growth and focuses on the expansion of its international business with forward-looking products and services.

About BOC Gases: BOC Gases is a member of The Linde Group. A global industrial gases provider, the company employs about 20,000 people and supplies compressed and bulk gases, chemicals and equipment. In fiscal 2005, BOC Gases achieved sales of approximately €5 billion. For more than a century the company's gases and expertise have contributed to advances in many industries and aspects of everyday life, including steel-making, refining, chemical processing, environmental protection, wastewater treatment, welding and cutting, food processing and distribution, glass production, electronics and health care.

About BOC India Limited: BOC India Limited (BOCI) is the leader in gas business in India since 1935. BOC India provides a one-stop solution to every sphere of gas and gas related business. BOC India has excelled through successfully blending of local innovation and adaptation with international expertise from The Group. Be it for food processing, medical, domestic or industrial use, BOC India provides tailor made solutions for its customers. While providing the best solutions to its customers, BOC India has always conformed to the strictest international standards of production and safety.