

## Media Release

24th March 2006

### BOC India Limited builds merchant plant to better serve Customers in South India

**Hyderabad, 24 March 2006:** BOC India Limited the pioneer and market leader in gases business in the country inaugurated its first merchant plant for the southern market in Hyderabad today. The new Air Separation Unit (ASU) will further consolidate the company's position in this region.

**Mr. J. N. Sapru, Chairman BOC India Limited,** inaugurated the plant earlier in the day today.

At the inauguration **Mr. ER Raj Narayanan, Managing Director BOC India Limited** said; *"This is part of our focus towards expanding and enhancing service to the customers. This new plant will help us to connect with the southern heartland and further strengthen our position in this region. This investment is part of several initiatives undertaken by BOC in driving its strategy in India. The emerging predominance of the south in India's industrial development driven by an overall growth in various key sectors has boosted BOC's confidence to invest in this region."*

The latest investment is the first for the company in a merchant ASU after a span of almost 15 years. This cryogenic plant will produce liquid oxygen, liquid nitrogen and liquid argon. The basic and detailed design of the ASU for Air Pre Purification unit, Cooling water system, electrical, instrumentation, design of product storage system and engineering have been developed in-house by BOC India's Project Engineering team. This state of the art plant is fully auto controlled through Distributed Control System (DCS) and allows minimal human interference. A very compact plant by design, it is built over a minimum foot print area of 150 meter by 100 meter for the plant, its storage and other utility systems. This was built through the collaborative effort between **BOC India Team** and **The BOC Group**.

**BOC India's**, year to date results with profit before taxes and extraordinary items was recorded at Rs. 4391 Lakhs for the nine months ended 31 December 2005, an increased by 34.86 per cent compared to corresponding period of the previous year. This ASU in Medak in Andhra Pradesh will give a distinct cost advantage on liquid sourcing for the South India business. While the PGS business for **BOC India** continues in its consolidation mode its ISP site rationalization plan is also progressing per schedule. The Chennai new facility has already been commissioned and work is now starting at Trichy and Pune sites.

**About BOC India Limited:** **BOC India Limited (BOCI)** is the leader in gases business in India since 1935. Part of **The BOC Group Plc.** of UK, **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.

**About The BOC Group:** **The BOC Group**, the world-wide industrial gases, vacuum and abatement technologies and distribution services company, serves two million customers in more than 50 countries. It employs some 30,000 people and had annual sales of over £4.6 billion in 2005. Further information about **The BOC Group** may be obtained on the Internet at [www.boc.com](http://www.boc.com).