

**Media Release**  
27th October 2009

## **The Linde Group to invest in largest air separation plant in India**

**Mumbai, 27th October 2009**

- Rs 600 Crores investment is part of a long-term gas supply contract with Tata Steel
- Contract includes acquisition of Tata's captive air separation plants in Jamshedpur

BOC India Limited, a member of The Linde Group, today announced plans to build and commission a state-of-the-art 2550 tonnes per day (tpd) air separation unit (ASU) at Tata Steel Ltd's plant in Jamshedpur. Once commissioned in early 2012, this will be the largest air separation plant in India and one of Linde's largest in Asia. The total investment for the new ASU, including the acquisition of captive assets, amounts to nearly Rs 600 Crores, bringing Linde's total investment in India over the last three years to approximately Rs 2,000 Crores.

The announcement follows BOC India's signing of a long-term contract with Tata Steel for the supply of over 4,000 tpd of gaseous oxygen, nitrogen and argon. The new ASU will cater to Tata Steel's current expansion of its world-class steel making facility in Jamshedpur. The expansion will increase the plant's steel making capacity to 10 million tonnes a year. As part of the agreement, Linde will also acquire and operate three existing ASUs owned by Tata Steel for the supply of gases to their Jamshedpur works.

"This investment, which further deepens our solid relationship with Tata, is an example of our strong commitment to India," said Dr Aldo Belloni, member of the Executive Board of Linde AG. "Our group member, BOC, has been operating in India for nearly 75 years. The importance of the Indian market is also reflected in our rapidly growing engineering capability in Baroda and Kolkata. Our comprehensive engineering solutions put us in a good position to meet the growing needs of steel makers, refineries and petrochemical plants in India."

Commenting on the occasion, Mr. H M Nerurkar, Managing Director of Tata Steel Ltd said, "Linde is one of the world's largest gas companies, with cutting-edge technical expertise and experience in designing and operating air separation plants. This, combined with their solid operational capabilities locally makes them a strong partner for Tata for our world class steel works in Jamshedpur."

In addition to meeting Tata Steel's gases requirements, the new plant will also produce liquid products to meet the growth in merchant markets throughout India. Linde is the leading provider of bulk and cylinder gases in India to a variety of industries and is currently in the process of commissioning a new air separation plant near Dehradun in North India. The plant is expected to commence supplies of liquid and cylinder gases to customers by the first quarter of 2010. In addition, Linde is also investing in a new merchant air separation plant in Maharashtra that will produce nearly 500 tpd of liquid products to meet the growing demands of industry in the western region of the country.

Mr Sanjiv Lamba, Regional Business Unit Head for Linde South & East Asia said, "India is one of the most important markets in our region and we have demonstrated a strong commitment to our growth strategy for India by committing investments of approximately Rs 2000 crores in the last 3 years. We are delighted to have this opportunity to meet Tata Steel's full gases requirements for their latest expansion at Jamshedpur. This investment, along with our other

recent investments in North and West India, is also important as it further cements BOC India's leading position in the merchant market allowing us to efficiently serve a number of key industries across the country."

The Linde Group currently has gas supply contracts with Tata Steel across the world meeting their gas requirements not only in India, but also in the UK and Holland. In India, Linde has a long-standing relationship with Tata Steel that spans over five decades. It currently operates two existing air separation plants supplying almost 1,500 tpd of oxygen, nitrogen and argon gases to Tata's steel making operations at Jamshedpur.

Mr S K Menon, Managing Director of BOC India Ltd said, "BOC is the leading gas supplier to the steel industry in India. I am pleased that Tata Steel has chosen BOC India as the preferred gas supplier to meet their gases requirements for their expansion at Jamshedpur. We look forward to building on the strong relationship that exists between our two companies."

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

**About The Linde Group:** The Linde Group is a world leading gases and engineering company with almost 50,000 employees working in around 100 countries worldwide. In the 2008 financial year it achieved sales of EUR 12.7 billion. The strategy of The Linde Group is geared towards sustainable earnings-based growth and focuses on the expansion of its international business with forward-looking products and services.

Linde acts responsibly towards its shareholders, business partners, employees, society and the environment - in every one of its business areas, regions and locations across the globe. Linde is committed to technologies and products that unite the goals of customer value and sustainable development.

**About Tata Steel Limited:** Tata Steel Ltd is a part of the Tata group and is one of the world's largest steel manufacturers. It has a global presence in over 50 European and Asian markets, with manufacturing units in 26 countries.