

News Release

March 26, 2007

## **Matheson Tri-Gas begins operation of large-scale air separation plant in Southern California**

Matheson Tri-Gas, Inc. (MTG), a U.S.-based wholly-owned subsidiary of TNSC, recently completed construction of a state-of-the-art large-scale air separation plant in Vernon, and the operation of the plant commenced in February.

The cutting-edge air separation plant was assembled at the Vernon site with the objective of meeting strong demand from customers in Southern California, including not only industrial users such as companies in the electronics, petrochemicals, and metal fabrication industries, but also medical institutions. In terms of liquefied gas output capacity, the plant is one of the largest operated by the TNSC Group.

Demand for our gas products in Southern California is expected to continue growing strong for the foreseeable future, and thanks to the Group's increased supply capacity with the startup of the new plant, we anticipate growth in our share of sales in the bulk gases market, particularly for nitrogen to grow.

The management of TNSC has also given the go-ahead for a plan to increase the production capacity of the medium-sized gas producer Linweld, Inc. (headquartered in Lincoln, Nebraska), which was purchased in 2006 by MTG, as well as approval for the construction of a new air separation plant to be operated by MTG in Texas. These new projects will build the foundations of TNSC's plans to substantially expand its supply capacity in bulk gases in West North region and Midsouth region.

### Outline of new facilities:

Location: Vernon, Los Angeles County, California

Start of operation: February 2007

Output capacity: 600 tons/day (18,000 Nm<sup>3</sup>/h)

Products: liquefied oxygen, liquefied nitrogen, liquefied argon



View of the plant at Vernon, California