

Air Products Introduces Jetbox Technology To Expanding South African And Indian Steel Industries

April 20, 2005 8:54 AM ET

Air Products today announced that its joint venture companies in India and South Africa have successfully introduced Process Technology International, Inc.'s (PTI) JetBOx™ system to the local steelmaking industries. This new technology allows customers to improve the efficiency of Electric Arc Furnaces (EAF) and, consequently, the performance of their entire steelmaking operation.

The JetBOx™ system introduces chemical energy in an innovative manner—energy that plays an important role in EAF steelmaking process. By positioning a variety of energy-injecting nozzles closer to a molten steel bath, the JetBOx™ system has demonstrated more efficient oxygen usage and increased furnace performance. Customers can benefit from greater productivity and reductions in energy consumption.

Lloyds Steel Industries Ltd—a customer of INOX Air Products Ltd, India—and Ispat Iscor Limited—a customer of Air Products South Africa (Pty) Ltd.—recently awarded major contracts to PTI for this JetBOx™ system technology. These agreements continue to position both PTI and the Air Products network as service leaders in emerging international steelmaking markets.

"The PTI-INOX Air Products team studied our case and proposed a solution that would meet our needs. Our selection was influenced as much by PTI's technological suitability, as by the synergies between INOX Air Products and PTI," said Rajesh Gupta, managing director, Lloyds Steel Industries Ltd. "Thus, INOX Air Products, who has been consistently servicing our gases demand, has helped us with both our EAF combustion system needs, as well as our oxygen supplies."

"The collaboration between Air Products' regional affiliates and PTI provides our steelmaking customers access to a unique package of combustion equipment, process support and industrial gas supplies. They have ability to upgrade their EAF combustion system technology while benefiting from Air Products' global infrastructure and local oxygen supply capabilities," said Bob Dixon, president, Air Products Asia.

Though the JetBOx™ system has already been successfully marketed in Europe, this represents the first time the technology has been widely offered in South Africa and Asia in collaboration with Air Products' joint venture partners. Worldwide, more than 40 companies with EAF shops have installed over 150 JetBOx™ systems. Fueled by the current robust growth of steel production, many JetBOx™ system projects are currently in different phases of installation in Asia where the synergy between PTI and Air Products capabilities is well positioned to deliver this offering.

Air Products has supplied Asian and South African steelmakers with industrial gases for over 30 years. It has the ability to transport gases either in liquid form, or produce them at on-site cryogenic or non-cryogenic plants adjacent to customers' facilities. Air Products also provides complementary equipment and technologies to the steel industry.

About Air Products

Air Products (NYSE:APD) serves customers in technology, energy, healthcare and industrial markets worldwide with a unique portfolio of products, services and solutions, providing atmospheric gases, process and specialty gases, performance materials and chemical intermediates. Founded in 1940, Air Products has built leading positions in key growth markets such as semiconductor materials, refinery hydrogen, home healthcare services, natural gas liquefaction, and advanced coatings and adhesives. The company has annual revenues of \$7.4 billion, operations in over 30 countries, and nearly 20,000 employees around the globe. For more information, visit www.airproducts.com.

About PTI

Process Technology International, Inc. (PTI) is an Atlanta, Ga.-based company that has been developing innovative combustion systems and ladle/tundish preheaters for use in Electric Arc Furnaces (EAF) steelmaking plants. PTI's burners, including its JetBOx™ system and carbon injection system, introduce chemical energy into the furnaces in a way that ultimately reduces electric power consumption and increases EAF productivity and steel production. For more information, visit www.pticombusion.com.

NOTE: This release may contain forward-looking statements. Actual results could vary materially, due to changes in current expectations.