

## Media Release

5th June, 2006

### **BOC India wins another major onsite contract from JSW Steel Limited**

*BOC to set up its biggest plant in Asia to meet demand for expansion at JSW Steel*

**BANGALORE, India, June 5, 2006 :** - BOC India Limited (BOCI), a subsidiary of The BOC Group Plc. one of the world's largest industrial gases companies, has entered into a long-term contract to supply gases for an expansion programme underway at JSW Steel Limited (JSW) at Bellary, Karnataka, southern India.

JSW Steel Limited (formerly Jindal Vijayanagar Steel Limited) operates a world-class steel making facility at Bellary and is nearly doubling its capacity to 7 million tonnes a year. Under the new contract, BOCI will supply JSW Steel over 3,000 tonnes per day of gaseous oxygen, nitrogen and argon from a custom-built air separation unit (ASU). To meet this requirement BOCI will set up one of the largest build-and-operate on-site air separation plant in the country. The state-of-the-art ASU will meet all of JSW Steel's gases requirements and additionally will produce liquid products to meet the growing demand from customers in southern India. This ASU, which will be one of BOC's largest in Asia, is expected to be commissioned in 2008 in time to meet the requirements of gases arising from the ongoing expansion programme at JSW Steel.

Speaking on the occasion **Dr. B. N. Singh, Joint Managing Director & CEO, JSW Steel Limited** said, "BOC was able to provide the best technical solution for our gases requirement, this along with their reputation for quality and reliability was key in our selection of BOC to support our expansion programme."

"We are delighted to be selected by JSW Steel for this second contract to meet all their gases requirements arising from their expansion programme. We value our relationship with JSW Steel and with the gases requirement of nearly 4500 MTPD from the expansion alone they will become BOCI's largest customer in India," said Mr ER Raj Narayanan, Managing Director, BOC India Limited.

Mr. Sanjiv Lamba, Managing Director, PGS South & South East Asia, The BOC Group Plc. said, "At BOC we recognise the importance of investment in our business in India and are delighted to have an opportunity to do this at JSW Steel's world class steel plant in Vijaynagar. We are confident that our commitment of continuous and focused investment in growth markets such as southern India will help us deliver our growth strategy in India and further strengthen our position as the leading industrial gases company in India and across Asia."

This contract follows an earlier agreement signed last year with JSW Steel to supply its Bellary site with some 1,400 tonnes per day of oxygen and nitrogen. An ASU is currently under construction by a BOC joint venture, with commercial production expected to begin later this year. In addition to its major air separation plants in Jamshedpur, Tarapur and Taloja, BOCI has recently commissioned its latest merchant ASU in Hyderabad.

In the fiscal year ending 31st March 2006, BOC India has registered its highest ever turnover of Rs. 560.93 crores, recording a growth of 32% over the previous year. Net profit after tax increased by 181% from Rs. 27.97 crores to Rs. 78.63 crores. The year also witnessed several product launches and commissioning of plants across the country.

**About JSW Steel:** JSW Steel Ltd is part of the O P Jindal Group and is one of India's largest steel manufacturers. It is a fully integrated company having facilities from mining of iron ore to colour coated steel. It ranks among India's top business houses in turnover, size and scale of operations. JSW Steel Ltd. consists of the most modern, eco-friendly steel plants with the latest technologies for both upstream and downstream processes. The company encompasses the Vijayanagar Works in Karnataka and the Tarapur and Vasind Works in Maharashtra.

**About BOC:** Serving two million customers in more than 50 countries, The BOC Group is one of the largest and most global of the world's leading gases companies. It employs around 30,000 people and had total revenues of £4.6 billion in 2005.

For more than a century, BOC'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. Further information about The BOC Group may be obtained on the Internet at [www.boc.com](http://www.boc.com).

**About BOC India Limited:** BOC India Limited (BOCI) is a leading player in the gases business in India since 1935. Part of The BOC Group Plc. of UK, BOCI provides a one-stop solution to every sphere of gas and gas related business. BOCI has excelled through successfully blending 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. BOCI does this while adhering to the strictest international standards of production and safety that it has come to be known for.