

Media Release

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BOC India continues on its growth track **Half year PBT doubles over corresponding period last year**

Kolkata, 8th October 2004: BOC India Limited the pioneers and leaders in gases business in the country reported its six months' result today in Kolkata. **BOC India's** profit before tax for the half year ended 30 September 2004 more than doubled to Rs 13.58 crores from that of Rs 6.13 crores achieved in the corresponding period of the previous year.

The net profit for the current half-year at Rs 6.18 crores, grew by almost 60% over the profit recorded in the corresponding period of the previous year. This was in spite of a higher tax charge of Rs 4.90 crores in the current half-year.

With a turnover at Rs 179.56 crores, for the 6 month ended 30 September 2004, **BOC India** grew by 8% over that of the previous year. The period witnessed a sustained superior performance from the Company's Project Engineering Division, which achieved a revenue growth of 30% during the first half. The company registered higher profits, despite an adverse impact on its Gases business due to a break down in its 1290 tpd plant at Jamshedpur in the month of August 2004.

As part of its renewed focus on the Southern region of the country, **BOC India Limited** during this fiscal period commissioned its new state-of-the-art ISP Liquid Compression facility in Bangalore. This new plant will produce Compressed Industrial Oxygen, Compressed Medical Oxygen and Compressed Argon/Argoshield. Also as a part of its strategic intervention to gain market share in the region the Company recently announced its plans to set up a merchant ASU plant in Hyderabad. This will be the Company's first investment in Southern India and comes after a gap of 15 years.

About BOC India Limited: **BOC India Limited (BOCI)** is the leader in gases business in India since 1935. Part of the \$ 6 billion **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.