

Media Release
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BOC India continues on its growth track
Half year PBT increases by over 400% WRT corresponding period last year

Kolkata, 19th October 2005: BOC India Limited the pioneers and leaders in gases business in the country reported its six months' result today in Kolkata.

Recording a profit before tax and extraordinary items of Rs. 2733 lakhs in the half year ended 30 September 05 **BOC India's** profit increased by 91 % compared to the corresponding period in the previous year.

Strong performance by the Project Engineering business and improved margins in the Gases business, backed by substantial reduction in interest cost to Rs 153 Lakhs for the half year compared to Rs 262 Lakhs in the same period previous year has helped BOC India register yet another strong performance.

The total profit before taxes at Rs 7396 lakhs for the period, increased by over 400 per cent compared to corresponding period of the last year including profit from sale of the closed Bangalore unit.

The net profit after tax for the period at Rs 5239 lakhs, recorded a growth of **over 600%** over the corresponding period of the previous year.

With a net sale of Rs 19981 lakhs for the 6 months ended 30 September 2005, **BOC India** grew by 24% over that of the previous year. The highlight of this period was the sustained superior performance from the Company's Project Engineering Division, backed by a growth in gases business both in terms of price and volume.

About BOC India Limited: BOC India Limited (BOCI) is the leader in gases business in India since 1935. Part of The **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, **BOCs India** has always conformed to the strictest international standards of production and safety.

About The BOC Group: 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 annual sales of just over £ 4.6 billion in 2004.

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.

Two significant businesses have grown in parallel with BOC's industrial gases activities. One is BOC Edwards, supplying gases, equipment and services to the global semiconductor industry and vacuum and pressure equipment for many industrial and scientific applications. The other

is Gist - a specialist logistics company serving a number of major customers including Marks & Spencer.