

Chemtex Selects Dresser-Rand Compression Equipment For LNG Projects in the People's Republic of China

CHEMTEX International has chosen Dresser-Rand Company to provide compression equipment for two liquefied natural gas (LNG) plants in the People's Republic of China. Dresser-Rand is one of the world's leading suppliers of rotating equipment solutions to the worldwide oil, gas, petrochemical, and process industries.

Dresser-Rand has secured an order to provide two DATUM centrifugal refrigerant compressors with 16,000 horsepower motor gear drives. Chemtex, with headquarters in Wilmington, North Carolina, is the plant contractor for the projects. Black & Veatch Corporation, of Kansas City, is the LNG process designer.

The equipment is planned for two new LNG production facilities to be built near the Erdos Basin gas fields of Inner Mongolia. The facilities will convert stranded natural gas supplies into liquefied natural gas for transportation by truck or

rail to markets not served by gas pipelines. Once completed, each plant is expected to produce approximately 200,000 tons a year of LNG. The facilities will be roughly double the size of a typical peak shaving LNG plant in the United States. Currently, there are 55 such plants, ranging from 1000 to 8000 horsepower each. Chemtex also has plans for three additional similar sized LNG facilities in China.

The gas fields of the Erdos Basin are estimated to contain more than 700 billion cubic meters of natural gas, making it the largest reserve in China, and one of the largest in the world. The rapidly expanding industrial base in China has greatly increased the need for readily available fuel supplies, and has created a growing demand for low-emissions energy sources.

"These projects represent very promising developments in the People's Republic of China," said Dave Johnson, Project Development Manager at Dresser-Rand. "We're very pleased to be playing a key role in the growth of clean fuel energy supplies in the region. The use of duplicate DATUM units at multiple facilities provides definite advantages to the equipment operators of these plants."

Dresser-Rand has a significant installed base of compression equipment operating in LNG facilities around the world. The company provided equipment for one of the first LNG plants, in Kenai, Alaska, in the late 1960s.

"We've been involved with the leading LNG producers since the technology was first introduced," Johnson said. "In recent years, as the interest in LNG has expanded, companies are beginning to recognize the added benefits of the high-efficiency compression technologies such as the DATUM product line."

Dresser-Rand has a world-class equipment test facility capable of full performance testing of LNG equipment at its facility in Olean, New York, USA.

The DATUM equipment for the China LNG projects will be manufactured in Olean, with the first unit scheduled to ship in mid 2007, and the second unit to ship in early 2008. ■