

## Messer continues to expand in Vietnam

Date: 02-26-2009 04:39 PM CET

Category: [Industry, Real Estate & Construction](#)

Press release from: [Messer Group GmbH](#)



As the largest privately managed industrial-gas specialist with its headquarters near Frankfurt am Main, Messer inaugurated a new filling plant in the city of Vũng Tàu on what is referred to as Vietnam's oil coast in February. Up to 300 gas cylinders are filled with oxygen, argon, carbon dioxide and gas mixtures at this location on a daily basis. Via its companies located in four regions of Vietnam, Messer operates a nationwide network for distributing gases needed in nearly all industrial sectors. Messer's next move will be to invest roughly 15 million EUR in an industrial-gas production site in Hai Phòng, to be put into operation later this year.

Located about 130 kilometres east of Ho-Chi-Minh city, Vũng Tàu is Vietnam's crude-oil processing centre among other things. Messer has entered into a contract with the international shipbuilder STX Europe, formerly Aker Yards, for supplying oxygen and carbon dioxide via a pipeline to its shipyard situated in Vũng Tàu. Five-year contracts for the supply of liquid oxygen and carbon dioxide have been concluded with three further customers. Founded in 1998, Messer Vietnam was initially just a relatively small company for marketing specialty gases in Ho-Chi-Minh city.

Messer is one of the leading industrial gas companies, and is active in over 30 countries in Europe and Asia, as well as Peru, with over 60 operating companies. Its international activities are managed from Frankfurt am Main, whilst management of core technical functions – logistics, engineering, production and applications engineering – is undertaken from Krefeld. In 2007, about 4,400 employees generated consolidated sales of €705 million.

From acetylene to xenon, the Messer Group has one of the most diverse product portfolios on the market – it produces industrial gases such as oxygen, nitrogen, argon, carbon dioxide, hydrogen, helium, shielding gases for welding, specialty gases, medical gases and many different gas mixtures.

The Messer Group has state-of-the-art research and competence centers in which it develops applied technologies for the use of gases in almost every sector of industry, in food technology and environmental technology, medicine as well as research and science.

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