

HELIUM PLANT TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION



BOC is a member of the Linde Group, which provides helium for Europe from this plant in Skikda, Algeria.

CONSTRUCTION of the southern hemisphere's first helium plant is set to start in Darwin in June, with tenders currently being prepared.

BOC Gases is to begin work on the \$5 million plant next to the Wickham Point LNG plant, and will be looking for Territory companies to build it.

Project Director, Rod Heather, said the company would be looking for suppliers through the NT Industry Networking Capability Network.

He said that since signing the deal to build the plant last September, BOC had been working on the procurement process to source equipment.

The factory will take waste from the LNG plant, previously released into the atmosphere, and extract helium.

BOC aims to produce about 780 tonnes of liquid helium each year, worth about \$20 million.

Apartment developments planned for Darwin

AT LEAST NINE major developments containing 518 apartments and 517 hotel rooms are planned for Darwin, a property research firm says.

The NT property research firm, Alliancedata, which provides 3D computer modelling of all development applications lodged, said plans being considered include the Chinatown development.

The Development Consent Authority approved the site as a 25-storey and seven-storey twin building project.

The developers want to increase the seven storey building to nine storeys and reduce the 25-storey to 24.

Other developments are planned for Larrakeyah, Stuart Park and Darwin City.

Major new shopping centre for Palmerston

THE BAKEWELL MARKETPLACE will include a Woolworths Supermarket and a Big W store, and will be developed by Woolworths.

The 14 000 square metre shopping centre is proposed for the corner of Chung Wah Terrace and Lambrick Avenue.

It will include 700 car park spaces and several other stores.

The \$50 million project would employ more than 100 people, and there would be up to 100 more jobs created in the development phase.

If approved by the Development Consent Authority it would take about 12 months to build, with an opening date planned in 2009.

Darwin house prices defy national trend

WHILE MEDIAN house prices in half of Australia's capital cities have fallen, the Darwin property market remains buoyant, according to a new report from Australian Property Monitors.

The report says the median house price in the Territory capital has risen 2.7 per cent over the past quarter to \$463 560.

The rise was second only to Adelaide (3.1 per cent) for Australian capital cities.

Homeowners in Sydney, Canberra and Hobart saw median house prices drop between 0.3 per cent and 3.4 per cent.

SEAAOC conference registrations begin

THE 14th ANNUAL South East Asia Australia Offshore Conference (SEAAOC) will be held in Darwin from 16-18 July 2008.

It is northern Australia's largest and longest established petroleum conference bringing together senior industry representatives from all over the world to share information on the latest developments and network with their peers.

SEAAOC provides an excellent opportunity to promote the Territory and showcase our developments and capabilities, with Territory businesses receiving a 35 per cent discount on registration fees.

For more information or to register visit: www.seaaoc.com