Cosmodyne expands Poplar merchant plant series range, 150 to 200 TPD

Cosmodyne announces the successful start-up and commissioning of a Poplar-12 air separation plant for Productos del Aire in Guatemala, an affiliate of Air Products and Chemicals. The plant will supply oxygen, nitrogen and argon products to meet the fast growing market demands of Guatemala as well as other Central American countries.

The Poplar-12 produces 150 to 200 tons per day of liquid while maintaining a relatively compact design. Because the cryogenic components are configured into only two cold boxes, installation and freight costs are minimized. Even with the pure argon option, the overall height is minimized, greatly reducing foundation requirements. This is an industry-first for a plant of this class.

Cosmodyne designed and selected components to achieve high efficiencies, resulting in specific power (kWh/unit of flow) comparable to larger plants. Air, at medium pressure, is used in the recycle refrigeration loop since it is more effective than nitrogen with regard to efficiency and packaging. Additionally, the Poplar-12 for Productos del Aire is capable of less than 1 PPM of oxygen in argon product to meet the special market requirements for higher than normal argon purity. The plant central control system is PLC based and can be remotely accessed for monitoring and operating adjustments. It also provides the primary controls for the feed air compressor, recycle compressor and chiller. This simplifies the controls and increases the reliability.

Juan Carlos Serra of Productos del Aire, commented "We are very pleased with the efficiency and operating flexibility the plant

demonstrated during commissioning. The plant is actually producing more liquid than we were promised. We look forward to a successful, long term relationship."

Two similar size plants are scheduled to be commissioned in the next six months.

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