

April 9, 2013

Mitsubishi Gas Chemical Company, Inc.

Mitsubishi Corporation

Mitsubishi Gas Chemical and Mitsubishi Corporation Sign Project Development Agreement for Establishment of Methanol & Dimethyl Ether Production in Trinidad and Tobago

Two Japanese companies, Mitsubishi Gas Chemical Company (“MGC”)(TSE 4182) and Mitsubishi Corporation (“MC”)(TSE 8058; LSE MBC) are in the final stages of an agreement with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and local partner, Neal & Massy Holdings Limited, to start developing a project for the commercialization of natural gas based petrochemicals. Phase 1 of the project under consideration will produce 1 million tons of methanol and 100 thousand tons of dimethyl ether per year. The partners are aiming to reach a final investment decision during the course of the current fiscal year, with commercial operations scheduled to start in fiscal year 2016.

Methanol, made mainly from natural gas, is used as a raw material in the manufacture of a wide range of products, including adhesives, agrochemicals, paints and synthetic resins. Dimethyl ether, for its part, has been receiving a lot of attention as a substitute for LPG and as a next generation clean energy substitute for diesel fuel in automobiles and in power generation. MGC and MC will sell the methanol produced to the global market, while promoting dimethyl ether in Trinidad and Tobago and the wider Caribbean as an alternative to diesel fuel in collaboration with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and Neal & Massy.

The global demand for methanol is currently 60 million tons per year, and this demand is expected to see a 4-5% growth in the coming years. By using natural gas produced in Trinidad and Tobago as the main source of raw materials for producing methanol, a basic chemical, and dimethyl ether, a liquefied gas, the project will be making a contribution to economic growth in Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean region while at the same time helping to satisfy the growing global demand for methanol. The partners will continue to work closely with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and Neal & Massy towards the development of other downstream petrochemicals in Trinidad and Tobago.



Location of Trinidad and Tobago



Mitsubishi Gas Chemical Dimethyl Ether Plant in Niigata, Japan

Direct enquiries about the project to:

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Reference Information

1. Company Outlines

Mitsubishi Gas Chemical Company

Headquarters : 2-5-2 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 100-8324 Japan
Main Business : Mitsubishi Gas Chemical Company is developing a wide range of operations in four companies in the major fields of natural gas chemicals, aromatic chemicals, specialty chemicals, and information & advanced materials.
Representative : Kazuo Sakai, Representative Director & President
Date Established : April 21, 1951
No. of Employees : 2,434 (5,376, consolidated) (as of end September 2012)

Mitsubishi Corporation

Headquarters : 3-1, Marunouchi 2 Chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 100-8086 Japan
Main Business : Mitsubishi Corporation has six Business Groups which develop operations in the diverse fields of Industrial Finance, Logistics & Development, Energy, Metals, Machinery, Chemicals and Living Essentials. In addition to these Business Groups, Mitsubishi Corporation has also recently established the Business Service Group and Global Environment & Infrastructure Business Development Group.
Representative : Ken Kobayashi, President and CEO
Date Established : July 1, 1954
No. of Employees : 65,289 (consolidated, as of September 30, 2012)

Neal & Massy Holdings Limited

Headquarters : 63 Park Street, Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago, West Indies
Main Business : Neal & Massy Holdings Limited is the parent company of the Neal & Massy Group. The Neal & Massy Group is comprised of over 50 companies, which are grouped into 2 major portfolios – the Integrated Retail Portfolio and the Strategic Investment Portfolio. Neal & Massy's companies operate in several industries, including automotive and industrial equipment, food retail, distribution and logistics, consumer finance, insurance, IT and energy and industrial gases. The Group's operations are primarily based in Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Jamaica and Guyana.
Representative : Arthur Lok Jack, Chairman
Year Established : 1932
No. of Employees : 8,988 (consolidated, as of September 30, 2012)

2. What is Methanol

As a basic chemical, methanol is used in the production of a range of downstream products, and is used as a raw material in the making of traditional petrochemicals, including formaldehyde and acetic acid. Methanol is also widely used in energy applications, such as gasoline blending and DME, as well as in the production of olefins (methanol-to-olefin).

3. What is Dimethyl Ether

Dimethyl Ether (DME) is a form of liquefied gas that can be made from natural gas or from other raw materials such as coal or biomass. DME has similar physical property to liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). DME does not emit particulate matter (PM) or sulfur oxides (SO_x) during combustion due to the absence of sulfur. In addition, its properties do not include nitrogen oxide (NO_x) or carbon dioxide (CO₂), making DME an attractive source for next generation clean energy.