Aluminium Smelter Project

Potential Sunrise Gas Customer

Fact Sheet

Aluminium Smelter Project



Name

Aluminium Smelter Project

Employment

- Construction workforce: – Up to 2,500
  – Average 1,400
- Operations workforce: – 750

Size of Project

- Production up to 500,000 tpa aluminium

Value (Capital Expenditure)

- Smelter Up to $A3B
- Power Station Up to $A1B

Key Points

- Gas consumption 120-130 PJ per annum
- Foundation project for Glyde Point Industrial Estate

Current at: 7/5/02

Northern Territory Government

Aluminium Smelter Project

The Project

The Aluminium Smelter project is being considered for development in Darwin. Production of up to 500,000tpa of aluminium would require a two-berth land backed port, a large gas-fired power station in the order of 1000MW capacity and about 150Ha of serviced land. Glyde Point Industrial Estate is the preferred site, providing maximum opportunities for smelter expansion.

Development of the smelter would be dependent on adequate gas supply from the Timor Sea, with back-up gas supply. The plant would take about 26 to 30 months to construct prior to first metal production. Production build-up to full capacity would take 8 to 12 months.

Two independent aluminium producers have shown interest in developing an aluminium smelter in Darwin.

Background

Depending on the technology used for smelting, the smelter could cost up to A$3 billion and the power station may cost up to A$1 billion. Additional expenditure would be required to develop the port, road, utilities and service the land. The planned township of Murrumujuk would be used to house some of the construction workforce.

Aluminium is generally produced as metal billets/ingots and given the huge electricity demands to make aluminium, it is often referred to as “congealed electricity”.

Australia currently has six aluminium smelters located in Tasmania (Bell Bay), New South Wales (Tomago and Kurri Kurri), Victoria (Port Henry and Portland) and Queensland (Boyne Island).

Contact:

Director
Mineral Processing
Office of Territory Development
(08) 8999 5205