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The Linde Group and Metalloinvest sign long-term gases supply agreement in Russia

- Linde awarded contract for long-term gases supply in Novotroitsk, Russia
- Linde will invest around EUR 50 million at iron and steel plant Ural Steel, a part of Metalloinvest

Munich, 23 October 2018 – The Russian Metalloinvest, a leading global iron ore and HBI producer and supplier, one of the regional producers of high-quality steel, and the German technology company The Linde Group have signed an agreement for a long-term supply of oxygen, nitrogen, and argon to Ural Steel (part of Metalloinvest).

The Linde Group is to invest around EUR 50 million into a new state-of-the-art air separation unit (ASU) and operate the unit at the steel works in Novotroitsk, Russia. Ural Steel is an integrated company that operates blast furnace, steelmaking and metal rolling facilities.

“We are delighted that Metalloinvest, one of Russia’s integrated steel producers, entrusted us with this important project. The successful completion of the new ASU will pave the way for further growth and mutual benefit. We will make use of our global expertise and experience to produce a new reference unit in Russia in the field of oxygen production,” stated Professor Dr Aldo Belloni, CEO of Linde AG.

Mr. Evgeny Maslov, Ural Steel Managing Director, said “We are confident that cooperation with Linde, the world technology leader in the field of industrial gases and engineering, will ensure reliable operation of the ASU after its commissioning in 2021.”

About The Linde Group

The Linde Group’s Gases Division is a world leading supplier of industrial, process and specialty gases, serving customers of all sizes across almost all industries and trades, also supporting science, research and medicine. The company offers a wide range of compressed and liquefied gases, as well as chemicals. The gas portfolio extends from gas production right up to delivery, rounded off by a broad industrial and medical gas application and

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service offering. Although only rarely visible in operation, Linde gases are used in almost every production chain in steel production, chemical processing, energy sector, welding, food processing, glass production, electronics, environmental protection, fuel technologies and healthcare. They helped producing the cars we drive, growing and preserving the food we eat, putting the fizz in the water we drink, fabricating the glass to drink from and so much more.

In the 2017 financial year, The Linde Group generated revenue of EUR 17.113 bn, making it one of the leading gases and engineering companies in the world, with approximately 58,000 employees working in more than 100 countries worldwide. The strategy of The Linde Group is geared towards long-term profitable growth and focuses on the expansion of its international business, with forward-looking products and services. Linde acts responsibly towards its shareholders, business partners, employees, society and the environment in every one of its business areas, regions and locations across the globe. The company is committed to technologies and products that unite the goals of customer value and sustainable development.

For more information, see The Linde Group online at www.linde.com.

About Metalloinvest

Metalloinvest (www.metalloinvest.com) is a leading global iron ore and merchant HBI producer and supplier, and one of the regional producers of high-quality steel. The Company has the world's second-largest measured iron ore reserve base and is one of the lowest-cost iron ore producers.

Metalloinvest is wholly owned by Holding Company USM LLC. Alisher Usmanov is the major beneficiary of Holding Company USM LLC (49%), with other major beneficiaries being the companies of Vladimir Skoch (30%) and Farhad Moshiri (8%).

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