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News Release
Communiqué de Presse

Port Arthur Refinery Celebrates Deep Conversion Project Milestone

Port Arthur, Texas (January 27, 2009) – TOTAL Port Arthur Refinery will celebrate the arrival of the centerpieces for its \$2.2 billion Deep Conversion Project today.

Four massive coke drums left Spain in December for Port Arthur and are considered to be the heart of the project.

“Each drum is 12 stories tall, 32 feet wide and weighs 404 tons,” said Rajan Krishnan, director of the Deep Conversion Project.

Michel Bénézit, TOTAL’s president of Refining and Marketing worldwide, and André Tricoire, senior vice president of Refining worldwide, will attend today’s milestone celebration along with about 200 invited guests from Southeast Texas.

“This project reflects our strategy of investing to enhance the efficiency and competitiveness of our large refining hubs worldwide, while at the same time reducing our environmental footprint,” Bénézit said.

The Deep Conversion Project includes a 50,000 barrel-per-day coker, a desulfurization unit, a vacuum distillation unit, and other related units. At its peak, the project will employ about 2,200 skilled workers.

“This milestone celebration gives us an opportunity to thank all the public officials and those in the community who helped support the project,” said Darrell Jacob, refinery manager.

The new units will increase the facility's deep-conversion capacity and expand its ability to process heavy and sour crude oil. They will add 3 million tons per year of ultra low sulfur automotive diesel to the refinery's current production, raising total out put of all products combined to about 12 million tons per year. The project is scheduled for commissioning in 2011.

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