

First Casino Gas Delivered

Victoria's energy supply has received an additional 120 TJ of gas a day, following the launch of the Casino gas project in western Victoria.

Victoria's Minister for Energy, Industries and Resources, Theo Theophanous, dispatched the first full flow of natural gas from the master control room of the TRUenergy Iona gas plant, near Port Campbell, on 8th March 2006.

Raw, untreated gas will be delivered to the plant from the Casino gas field, developed by Santos, Australian Worldwide Exploration (AWE) and Mittwell (a Mitsui subsidiary). An initial sales agreement between TRUenergy, Santos and AWE in September 2003 helped to substantially shorten the time between discovery of gas and the commencement of commercial sales.

As a result, the Casino gas project was the fastest gas to market project in Victoria's history.

"The unparalleled speed at which we have delivered this project has also been enhanced by our partners' decision to use our existing

processing facilities", TRUenergy Managing Director, Richard McIndoe, said.

The Santos-led Joint Venture has invested \$200 million to develop two Casino gas production wells and will transfer quantities of raw, untreated gas to the Iona Plant through 47 km of submerged pipelines. Annual production is expected to be 35 PJ a year - enough gas to supply over 10% of Victoria's gas demand. Located 35 km offshore from Port Campbell, the Casino gas field is estimated to contain 280 Bcf of natural gas.

McIndoe said the Iona gas plant would process enough natural gas to supply nearly one million Victorian homes a day. "Casino will provide gas customers with a new, independent source of natural gas, reducing the risk of possible gas shortages, particularly as energy demand continues to rise", he said.

The plant is built over a natural sandstone reservoir and the facility can store up to 12 PJ of natural gas for later consumption. A team of 22 TRUenergy personnel operate the plant which functions 24 hours a day, seven days a week. ■



TRUenergy operator, Jess Vogels, and Victorian Energy Industries and Resources Minister, Theo Theophanous, in the control room at the Iona gas plant at the launch of the Casino gas project recently.