

## Press Release

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### **The Linde Group and OYAK Mining Metallurgy Group's joint venture will take into operation the new air separation unit in December**

**Munich, 7 November 2017** – The Turkish steel producer OYAK Mining Metallurgy Group and the German technology company The Linde Group established in November 2016 a joint venture to build a new air separation unit (ASU) at Isdemir, a group company located in southern Turkey. The joint venture named Isdemir Linde Gaz Ortaklığı A.Ş. accomplished the construction of the ASU in a year and the plant will be taken into operation until the end of 2017.

OYAK Mining Metallurgy Group is Turkey's first and largest integrated flat steel producer, and the third largest steel producer in 28 EU countries.

This partnership is the first international joint venture formed by OYAK Mining Metallurgy Group in its history over 50 years.

The new plant, which is currently under commissioning, will be the largest ASU operated by an industrial gases company in Turkey. It will supply up to 1,700 tonnes of oxygen and nitrogen per day to Isdemir, through a Build, Own, Operate (BOO) business model.

“One of our top priorities is to optimise productivity and efficiency. The Linde Group understands our aspiration for performance excellence. Their expertise in industrial gas supply solutions will enhance our sustainable productivity at competitive costs. We have a reliable partner for that in Linde,” Ömer M. BAKTIR, the OYAK Mining Metallurgy Group Chairman, said.

“We are delighted that OYAK Mining Metallurgy Group, Turkey's prestigious steel producer, entrusted us to participate in this important project. The successful completion of the new ASU will pave the way for further growth and mutual benefit,” said Bernd Eulitz, Member of the Executive Board of Linde AG. “This joint venture is a further expression of the success of our growing business in Turkey. It underpins our commitment to invest further in the region,” he added.

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“By making this investment, we demonstrate our commitment to the growing Turkish market and our ability to add value thanks to our clear customer focus. We opened production facilities in Turkey during 2016 in Denizli and Bursa, and are now strategically positioned to meet the needs of customers across Turkey. The new state-of-the-art air separation unit will add to our efficient and innovative gas supply concepts,” said Elena Skvortsova, Head of Region Middle East and Eastern Europe at Linde Gases Division.

### **About The Linde Group**

Linde Gases Division, part of The Linde Group, 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 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 2016 financial year, The Linde Group generated revenue of EUR 16.948 bn, making it one of the leading gases and engineering companies in the world, with approximately 60,000 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](http://www.linde.com)

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