



Contribution ID: 204

Type: **Oral presentation (15min)**

Ras Laffan Helium Recovery Unit HeRUII Project

Wednesday 9 July 2014 16:15 (15 minutes)

Helium plays a critical role in a wide array of product. It is used for a number of industrial and medical applications, including MRI scanners, semiconductors, fiber optic cable. The helium market is expected to grow steadily, by an average of +4% a year. With the largest proven helium reserves, Qatar decided to meet the world helium rising demand by building a second Helium Recovery Unit HeRUII. In this context and after the successful Helium I Project Commissioned in 2005, Air Liquide was awarded for this second project.

The Helium Recovery Unit II is the largest facility in the world that was designed, manufactured, installed and commissioned by Air Liquide in Qatar. It is located adjacent to Helium I plant, operated by Rasgas. It includes a purification unit and the world's largest helium liquefier ever designed and manufactured. The plant capacity is more than the double of Helium I (20Tons/day of liquid Helium). It is designed to recover 98% of the helium from the feed gas entering the plant.

HeRUII produced its first drop of liquid helium end of June 2013 and achieved the full capacity by October 2013. The project was completed with an exceptional safety record of 5 million man hours Lost Time Incident free. With this start-up, Qatar becomes the largest helium exporter in the world and the second producer with 25% of worldwide production.

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Session Classification: Wed-Af-Orals Session 10

Track Classification: C-01: Large scale refrigeration, liquefaction