Air separation: MAN Diesel & Turbo sets new standard with largest single turbomachinery unit

Successful acceptance test is followed by shipment to the Secunda site in South Africa.

“We are more than delighted to deliver what is not only supposed to be the largest industrial compressor, the AR-MAX1 140”, states Mathias Scherer, Senior Vice President of MAN Diesel & Turbo SE and Head of Sales for Turbomachinery. He adds, “It is also part of another world record: driven by a 64 Megawatt electric motor, this main air compressor will be employed at the South African site in Secunda, where our esteemed customer Air Liquide is going to commission the most efficient air separation plant in the world.”

Following successful acceptance tests and prior to shipping of the AR-MAX1 unit from the MAN works in Oberhausen (Germany) to the African continent, Executives off the companies Sasol, Air Liquide and MAN Diesel & Turbo held a small event on June 21st in Oberhausen.

Although it has been released for the market only recently, the AIRMAX concept has already been ordered for 19 trains, including a first running customer machine in Yulin (China). This also includes 11 trains having been ordered for what will be the largest air separation plant in total, currently erected and commissioned at Yichuan (China).

MAN is holding a unique position in the market of turbomachinery trains for air separation. With its AIRMAX and AIRTRAIN concepts, the company offers a complete product range for almost every plant size. As MAN’s youngest development, the AIRMAX concept sets news standards for the branch of Industrial Gases. With the ongoing trend to larger, more energy-efficient air separation plants, the concept allows volume flows of up to 1.5 million m³ per hour, enabling a production capacity of up to 8,000 tons of oxygen per day.

In an earlier statement, Dr. Uwe Lauber, CEO of MAN Diesel & Turbo, commented the current project for South Africa: "In awarding us the contract for the compressor equipment of this flagship project, Air Liquide is placing great trust in us. We are thus consolidating the market leadership achieved with our AIRTRAIN and AIRMAX solutions for air separation units by making another significant advance."
Based in Augsburg, MAN Diesel & Turbo is the world's leading supplier of large diesel engines and turbomachinery. MAN Diesel & Turbo employs around 14,900 staff at more than 100 international sites, primarily in Germany, Denmark, France, Switzerland, the Czech Republic, India and China. The product portfolio includes two- and four-stroke engines for maritime and stationary applications, turbochargers and propellers as well as gas and steam turbines, compressors and chemical reactors. Complete solutions such as ship propulsion systems, engine power stations and turbomachinery sets for the oil and gas and process industry round off the scope of supply and services. Customers receive worldwide after-sales services marketed under the MAN PrimeServ brand.