

BOC celebrates historic Teesside centenary with plans for future decarbonisation drive

Teesside, UK (31st January 2023) – BOC is delighted to celebrate 100 years since it began operating in Teesside, as the company looks to an exciting future as the region pioneers technologies to help reach net zero.

BOC remains as committed to Teesside today, as it was a hundred years ago. Over the past century we've provided critical gas supplies, infrastructure and jobs to the region. Having helped to fuel industrial growth in Teesside and the surrounding region for decades, we're now determined to use that expertise to help decarbonise.

Our North Tees Hydrogen plant is part of the East Coast Cluster, aiming to make the region a global hub for net zero innovation. Pending government approval, BOC plans to add carbon capture technology to one of the UK's largest hydrogen production facilities, converting it from grey hydrogen to low carbon blue hydrogen production.

BOC's Teesside Business Manager, Rob Robson, said: *"Having worked for BOC for over 36 years, I am incredibly proud of our history in Teesside, and very optimistic about our future and the positive impact BOC can have in the region. As part of the East Coast Cluster, we aim to help power the next wave of decarbonised industrial growth, one that capitalises on the immense potential of hydrogen."*

Our history in the region began with our very first employee, a Night Watchman called George Kynman, who clocked in for his first shift on the 3rd of February 1923. BOC's first oxygen delivery was to the Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI), when ICI staff collected the oxygen in three thermos flasks. By September 1923 two gas production plants had been built, greatly increasing capacity.

With the onset of World War Two, BOC built elaborate remote-control facilities into air raid shelters to keep the plants running. This kept staff relatively safe, whilst ensuring the supply of vital gases for key industries during the heavy bombing of the Teesside area. In 1957 BOC began production on its current Tees Dock Road site, due to the increasing demand from steel and chemical customers for industrial gas. By the 1970's it had become one of the largest industrial gases facilities in Europe. The following decades saw additional investment, culminating in the construction of the one of the UK's largest Hydrogen production facilities at North Tees.

Victoria Oleksik, Teesside Hydrogen Plant Manager, said: *"We are supporting Teesside's renaissance as a leader in the economies and industries of the future and our work on*

hydrogen and CO2 capture is a key part of that. We are proud to be helping the local economy grow, supporting business from a range of industries, and providing high quality jobs to our employees across the supply chain.”

BOC’s Teesside Hydrogen CO2 Capture project has the potential to capture over 200,000 tonnes of CO2 per year. Pending government approval of the East Coast Cluster, it will be built and operated by BOC and will feed into an intricate network of regional decarbonising infrastructure.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

- BOC are industry leaders in hydrogen mobility and industrial decarbonisation, offering engineering expertise and end-to-end service that is proven, reliable and safe.
- BOC has been operating in Teesside for 100 years, with more than 80 miles of pipeline that deliver critical industrial gas supplies across the Teesside cluster.
- BOC is the UK’s leading supplier of hydrogen, operating the UK’s largest independently owned hydrogen production plant in Teesside.
- We have been delivering innovative solutions for our customers for over a century. As a Linde company, BOC leverages Linde technology to deliver best-in-class solutions for our customers.
- We are the hydrogen supplier for multiple government funded fuel switching demonstrations, and we produce sustainable fuels, including low-carbon hydrogen for transport, owning and operating one of Europe’s largest green hydrogen refuelling stations at Kittybrewster, Aberdeen

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