

Curtin in urea plant team

Turning coal from Collie into fertiliser will be the focus of a new partnership between Curtin University and Perdaman Chemicals and Fertilisers (PCF).

PCF is developing a \$US2.7 billion manufacturing plant in Collie using clean coal gasification technology to transform sub-bituminous coal into urea.

The project involves converting mined coal from the Griffin coal mine to urea and transporting the final product by rail to the Bunbury Port for export.

Curtin and Perdaman have signed a memorandum of understanding to co-operate research and development.

The five-year agreement gives PCF access to expertise and facilities at the

Curtin Centre for Advanced Energy Science and Engineering, led by professors Chun-Zhu Li and Hongwei Wu.

Curtin deputy vice-chancellor for research and development Professor Linda Kristjanson said the agreement would help to further strengthen the coal gasification technical expertise in WA.

"The Curtin Centre for Advanced Energy Science and Engineering has some of the leading expertise in coal and biomass gasification technology in the world," Professor Kristjanson said.

"This team also has seven years of experience working with Collie coal, which will be invaluable as Perdaman builds its operations."

PCF chairman and managing di-

rector Vikas Rambal said that he hoped the agreement would be the beginning of a long-term relationship aimed at developing gasification technology.

He believed it would provide an opportunity for students to put theory into practice at a world-class gasification facility.

"We are using proven gasification technology to develop coal into urea and view the relationship with Curtin as a way to share our skills and expertise in that area," he said.

"We recognise the importance of linking the expertise offered by Curtin with the practical knowledge provided by PCF.

"This agreement is mutually beneficial for both parties and provides clear benefits for local industry."