

Focus turns to local area

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PERDAMAN Chemicals and Fertilisers selected three international companies to supply its coal gasification, ammonia and urea melt and granulation technology for its \$3.5 billion Collie Urea Project last week.

But Perdaman projects director Joseph McCarthy said it was now time to look locally.

"Now that Perdaman has secured its design, construction and technology team, we will soon be looking at who will do the work on the ground in Collie," Mr McCarthy said.

He said Perdaman had held discussions with a number of the major construction contractors in the area, already receiving 178 submissions from local and regional firms.

Mr McCarthy said there would be local requirements for a wide range of materials and services related to the project up to the proposed opening in 2013 and then beyond when the plant is operating.

He said services were needed to cover all the key areas related to building the plant, transport and logistics and ongoing supplies and maintenance.

"We are planning that a large part of these materials and services will be sourced from Collie and the South West."

Mr McCarthy said Perdaman intended to provide the first opportunities for long term employment at the completed urea plant to the Collie community.

"Obviously any companies who work on the construction of our plant will have their own teams of employees, however we want our permanent workforce of about 200 people at the plant to be drawn largely from the local area," Mr McCarthy said.

Oil and gas major Shell will provide the plant's core coal gasification and gas treatment technology.

Danish company Haldor Topsoe A/S will provide the ammonia synthesis technology, and Netherlands company Stamicarbon BV will provide its Urea 2000 plus melt technology and fluid bed granulation technology.

The selection of the technology providers comes a month after the company signed a binding Heads of Agreement with Korea's Samsung Engineering and Indonesia's Inti Karya Persada Teknik for the engineering, procurement and construction work on the plant.

Perdaman chairman and managing director Vikas Rambal said the signing of the licence agreement meant key components for the development of the Collie Urea Project were now in place.