



Trinidad gas-to-liquids plant on target for 2008 start: company

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US-based World GTL and Trinidad and Tobago's state-owned oil company Petrotrin expect to finish construction of a \$100 million gas-to-liquids plant in Trinidad by the end of this year, World GTL spokeswoman Ivette Almeida said Monday.

Almeida told Platts production of 2,600 b/d of cleaner-burning diesel should begin by early 2008.

Project backers initially said production would start in early 2007, but the project faced delays in obtaining approvals from environmental authorities. Plant construction began last year at the site of a converted methanol facility at Petrotrin's sprawling refinery complex in Pointe-a-Pierre along Trinidad's western coast.

World GTL has a 51% stake and Petrotrin holds the remaining 49% share.

In January, Credit Suisse closed on a \$125 million project loan to conclude financing for plant construction, Almeida said.

Trinidadian officials have said the facility will use GTL technology to convert about 18,000 Mcf/d of natural gas to diesel that will be aimed at markets in South America and the Caribbean islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique, where there is greater demand for high-quality diesel products. --Laura Brooks, newsdesk@platts.com