RCI DISMANTLES LIQUIFIER

Ranch Cryogenics, Inc. (RCI) has completed the disassembly of a 120 TPD liquefier in West Texas for Air Liquide Process & Construction, Inc. RCI and its crew match marked all the process piping that was to be salvaged and re-used for re-erection. All control valves were carefully removed and packaged for shipment to be re-furbished. RCI also had their rotating machinery specialist Josh Donaldson on-site to prepare the recycle compressor and the expander skid for safe shipping. The liquefier box was removed by a 175 ton crane and a 50 ton tail crane. RCI designed special saddles for the shipping by truck, due to the odd shape and size of the box, and it was originally brought on-site by a rail car. Everything that was not sent to vendors was staged in a waiting area and by twelve noon on the 10th day the liquefier box, process piping, miscellaneous pumps and equipment was on its way for unloading in East Texas. "It was a real accomplishment to come in and achieve what we did in 10 days," says Trey Duffy, Project Coordinator, "I guess when you have an experienced crew and good people surrounding a project, early completion is attainable. ❑

RCI recently completed the disassembly of a 120 TPD liquefier in West Texas

VELOCYS, TOYO ENGINEERING AND MODEC FORM ALLIANCE

Velocys Inc., Toyo Engineering Corp., and MODEC, Inc. have formed a joint development agreement (JDA) to develop and commercialize gas-to-liquids (GTL) facilities for offshore applications. Each member of the alliance brings world-class expertise. Velocys is a leader in the field of microchannel process technology; Toyo Engineering's plant design experience spans over 45 years and more than 1,400 projects; and MODEC is a leading international company specializing in floating production and storage solutions for the oil and gas industry. The agreement is expected to result in a commercial offshore GTL facility by 2012.

Wayne Simmons, Velocys's CEO, is excited about the collaboration: "Toyo and MODEC are ideal partners for offshore GTL applications as they bring with them a wealth of experience of what works, and what doesn't in the offshore environment."

Yutaka Yamada, President and CEO of Toyo Engineering had an equal amount of praise for Velocys and their technology, adding: "The size and cost advantages of (Velocys') microchannel technology offers the best opportunity to produce commercially significant quantities of synthetic fuels on FPSOs (Floating Production, Storage and Offloading vessels)." Kenji Yamada, President and CEO of MODEC, agreed: "Our companies have the unique and complementary capabilities that will enable the next generation of FPSO facilities."

Fischer-Tropsch (FT) based GTL technologies convert abundant natural gas into ultra-clean transportation fuels. The process has two primary steps, gasification via steam methane reforming and FT synthesis. Velocys' proprietary microchannel process technology can reduce the size and cost of each of these key steps. A compact footprint will be essential for permitting the economical production of clean transportation fuels in space constrained offshore applications.

Velocys joins Toyo Engineering and MODEC in developing GTL facilities for off-shore applications.

NAMED IN THE NEWS…

ETOX, Inc., Tyler, TX has appointed **Frank Barker President.** Over the past 22 years, Barker has worked his way from a route driver, to Branch Manager, District Manager, VP of Sales and Marketing, and has served as Executive VP and COO for the last two years. Barker succeeds John Whiting, who passed away October 5th, 2007. (see *John Whiting Memoriam*, page 14, *CGI* November 2007.) ❑

Frank Barker