

## The commercial operation of E-CL's Hornitos plant starts, which will contribute 151 MW to the SING

- Hornitos Thermal Plant (CTH) has the most modern circulating fluidized-bed technology, unique in Chile.
- CTH (60% owned by E-CL and 40% by Inversiones Punta de Rieles, of the Antofagasta Plc. group, through Inversiones Hornitos) will supply the energy needs of Minera Esperanza, of the Antofagasta Minerals group.
- CTH's twin plant, Andina Thermal Plant (CTA), started its commercial operation on July 15, and together they will contribute a net 302 MW to the Northern Electricity Grid (SING).

**Santiago**, **August 5**, **2011.-** The Hornitos Thermal Plant (CTH) today began its commercial operation. The plant has an installed capacity of 167 MW gross which, after deducting own consumption, provides a net 151 MW.

The plant (60% owned by E-CL and 40% by Inversiones Punta de Rieles, of the Antofagasta Plc group) is located in the Region of Antofagasta in the town of Mejillones and will meet the energy needs of Minera Esperanza, of the Antofagasta Minerals group.

The twin unit, Andina Thermal Plant (CTA), began its commercial operation last July 15, to meet the electricity requirements of Minera Gaby and part of the consumption of Codelco Norte.

CTA and CTH together represent an investment of close to US\$ 900 million, which includes the construction of a 144 kilometre transmission line, the building of a new substation (El Cobre) and the expansion of the existing Chacaya substation, and will contribute a net 302 MW to the SING, with which E-CL today increases its installed capacity to 2,129 MW, maintaining a market share of around 50% in the north of Chile.

The construction of the plants began in February 2008, generating a peak of 2,700 jobs. Another 65 people will be required for their permanent operation.

A long period of testing of both plants is thus completed, made in strict coordination with all the players on the grid, including the Economic Load Dispatch Centre of the SING (CDEC-SING).



## State-of-the-art technology

CTA and CTH are circulating fluidized-bed multi-fuel plants, the only ones in Chile, which can use a wide range of solid fuels like coal and biomass.

Circulating fluidized-bed technology corresponds to the so-called "green technologies" of thermal plants whose design characteristics permit improving the efficiency of the combustion process, reducing particle-matter and greenhouse-gas effect emissions.

## Who are we?

E.CL S.A. is the principal electricity generator on the Northern Electricity Grid (SING), with close to 50% of the installed capacity, and fourth at the national level, with 2,129 MW.

The company figures among the largest companies listed on the Santiago Stock Exchange, with a market capitalization of close to US\$ 2,800 million. It was recently included in the MSCI Index Chile

IPR-GDF SUEZ Latin America is the controlling shareholder in E-CL, with 52.77% of the capital. The remainder is traded on the stock market and is distributed among pension funds, institutional investors and others.

## About International Power (IPR) and GDF SUEZ

In Latin America, IPR-GDF Suez offers innovative energy and gas solutions in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Panama and Peru, and accompanies the developing continent in its economic growth, showing respect for the environment and providing essential services to its people.

IPR-GDF Suez manages and operates a diversified energy matrix with an installed capacity of 10.7 GW and an additional installed capacity under construction of 6 GW. Two thirds of the electricity it generates corresponds to renewable energies and the group continues to direct its efforts to ensuring that energy and the environment are sustainable sources of progress and development. The group also transports, distributes and sells gas, and re-gasifies liquefied natural gas (LNG).

International Power forms part of the GDF SUEZ Group, one of the most important energy suppliers in the world and having the most assets in the whole energy value-chain with respect to energy and natural gas. The Group carries on its businesses (energy, energy services and care for the environment) based on a responsible growth model to offer solutions to energy needs, guarantee security of supplies, fight against climate change and take the maximum advantage of resources.





For

further information about GDF SUEZ, visit <u>www.gdfsuez.com</u>. For more information on International Power Plc, visit <u>www.iprplc-gdfsuez.com</u>.