

Isegen planning MA plant in Trinidad and Tobago

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HOUSTON (ICIS News)--Isegen of South Africa said on Thursday it planned to build a maleic anhydride (MA) plant in Trinidad and Tobago in partnership with Trinidad's Phoenix Park Gas Processor Ltd.

The company said the project would require a \$64m (€50m) investment. Construction was due to start in late 2008 and take 2 years.

Neither Isegen nor Phoenix Park would disclose the capacity of the plant or their ownership percentages.

Isegen's chief executive Robert Fowlds said a large portion of the MA to be produced in Trinidad would be used internally by the companies for food acids and raw material. But he said some MA could be available for the merchant market in Trinidad.

The executive declined to comment on whether Isegen planned on exporting MA to the sold-out US market, where demand for the product is around 300,000 tonnes/year.

The new MA plant in Trinidad is one of seven major chemical plants in development on the Caribbean island, Trinidad and Tobago Energy Minister Lenny Saith said recently. The country, which is seven miles offshore Venezuela, is reported to have 25 petrochemical plants in operation.

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