Air Products South Africa (Pty) Ltd manufactures, supplies and distributes a wide variety of industrial and specialty gas products and chemicals to the Southern African region.

Air Products South Africa is a subsidiary of Air Products & Chemicals Inc. (APCI). The company was registered as a private South African controlled company in March 1969 on the basis of a 50/50 joint venture between Iscor Ltd and Air Products (USA). The company subsequently transferred its shareholding to the Metkor Group Holdings, a quoted company on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange. Today, the Metkor Group is controlled by Remgro. Senior management executives and representatives of the joint venture shareholders were appointed to the Board of Directors.

The company's headquarters is situated in Kempton Park, Gauteng, and has a workforce of approximately 450 employees.

Air Products & Chemicals Incorporated (APCI) – Some Facts:

- Established in the United States of America in 1940
- 24,000 employees
- $120 million on R&D spent
- Largest single over-the-fence gas supply complex in the world
- Over 700 Operating Plants world-wide
- Largest helium producer in the world

Air Products South Africa has grown steadily over the years. Utilising its world-class production and distribution facilities throughout Southern Africa Air Products has become the largest supplier in the on-site and pipeline market as well as a leader in the bulk, cylinder, specialty gas and chemicals supply markets. Liquid and gaseous product is distributed to customers throughout the region using its modern fleet of cryogenic tankers and cylinder trucks to provide reliable supplies of gases such as oxygen, nitrogen, argon, hydrogen and carbon dioxide to major corporations in the steel, stainless steel, chemical, petrochemical and engineering industries.

One of Air Products’ main objectives is to consistently introduce advanced, innovative solutions and commercially proven technologies to local industry. These include the production, recovery, separation and purification of a wide variety of gas streams to effect savings and significant production increases for the industrial gas user. The company prides itself on its position as a thought leader in the fields of both management systems and technological development.

The company has achieved significant success and growth in offering specialised chemical products such as polymers, polyurethane and performance chemicals as well as industrial chemicals, to provide both processing and performance advantages in a wide variety of manufacturing processes in South Africa. Air Products aims to continue its significant growth and market leadership in providing South African industry with the best gas and chemical quality, as well as the safest and most reliable service.
Mike Hellyar, Managing Director

Mike Hellyar, Managing Director of Air Products South Africa, has had an illustrious, experience-led career, in the industrial gas sector.

He rose from a base in organic chemistry and kick-started his career with Air Products as a spec gas production chemist in 1988. In an effort to diversify experience, he spent some time in a commercial role in the inorganic chemical industry and later returned to Air Products to take up a production management role in packaged gases.

After an internal restructure in 1997, he moved into the role of General Manager of Packaged Gases and his corporate accent began – culminating in two career developments: General Manager of On Sites, and in 2007, was entrusted with a significant leadership role, taking on the Managing Director position and overall leadership of the South African operations of a now well-established and entrenched company.

Hellyar is a manager with an eye for detail, analysis, diplomacy and insight – characteristics that have enhanced his career path and assisted his development on the corporate ladder. As a leader, his approach is to garner as much commitment from educated colleagues and to trust in the competent staff and team under his management. Hellyar has a BSc (Hons) Chemistry from the University of Witwatersrand, a BCom from UNISA, an MBL from UNISA and an AMP from Harvard University.

A competitive, goal-orientated approach to life and business has resulted in a memorable career to date, with a continued focus on future achievements.
Seelan Gounden
General Manager- Supply Chain

Seelan Gounden, who has a background in chemical engineering, first joined Air Products South Africa in January 1998 as Senior Sales Engineer in the Bulk division. He had previously worked at NCP Chlorchem, first in their Research and Development division, then moving into sales, culminating as Manager of Key Accounts for the National Sales division.

Shortly after joining Air Products, Gounden took on the role of Manager of Central Accounts before becoming Regional Sales Manager - Bulk in 1999. In 2001, he took on a national role as National Sales Manager, taking on the additional portfolio of Commercial Technology (CT) in 2002.

During 2005, Gounden moved to the On-Site division, managing the key accounts which included Liquid, Generated Gases and Pipeline. Shortly thereafter, in 2006, his portfolio was extended to include Supply Chain, and in 2008 Gounden joined the executive team in his current role, as General Manager – Supply Chain. His portfolio includes Bulk Sales and Distribution, as well as managing the key accounts in Generated Gases, Liquid and CO2 pipelines.

Gounden has a national diploma in Chemical Engineering, and a B. Comm (UNISA), and is currently working on his MBL (Master of Business Leadership) through UNISA.
Pierre Fourie
Area Sales Manager: Eastern Cape

Pierre Fourie is Air Products South Africa’s Area Sales Manager for the Eastern Cape.

He is an industry expert with over 18 years’ experience in sales, the majority of which have been in Air Products’ service.

Fourie has seen both Air Products and the Eastern Cape grow over his career and has tapped his own professional development onto growth within Air Products and the industry in general. He has progressed through the regional Air Products’ ranks being promoted from Sales Engineer to Senior Sales Engineer, and in 2007 taking on a leadership role as Area Sales Manager for the Eastern Cape. He manages the Port Elizabeth facility and East London area. Fourie ensures customer requirements are identified and met, and that company EH&S, quality and financial systems, procedures and goals are maintained and met.

Fourie is an enthusiastic and resourceful team player with demonstrable skills and experience in management, sales and marketing, production, distribution, administration and engineering projects. He has demonstrated commitment to the corporate environment. His insight, flexibility and adaptability have enabled his growth within Air Products and coupled with strong communication and people skills, he is well positioned for further growth in the business and industrial gas industry.

Fourie has a Diploma in Sales and Marketing from Damelin and a Degree in Business Management from Unisa.
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