FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Qatar Now World's Largest Exporter And Second Largest Producer Of Helium

RasGas’ Helium 2 Plant Starts Production

Ras Laffan, Qatar – 09 July, 2013: RasGas Company Limited (RasGas) today announced that its recently completed Helium 2 plant produced the first liquid helium for delivery to contracted customers.

RasGas’ Helium 2 plant is twice the size of its Helium 1 plant, which began operations in 2005. The Helium 2 plant is expected to produce approximately 1.3 billion cubic feet per year when fully operational. With a combined annual production of 2 billion cubic feet, the two plants will meet around 25 per cent of current total liquid helium global demand. Both facilities are managed and operated by RasGas.

H.E. Dr Mohammed bin Saleh Al Sada, Qatar’s Minister of Energy and Industry, expressed pleasure at the new milestone saying “it was a testament of Qatar’s strategy of creating added value by sound development and maximum utilisation of its natural resources.”

"With the commencement of production at our Helium 2 plant, which is the world's largest helium refining facility, we are today the largest exporter and the second largest producer of helium in the world,” added Dr Al Sada.

“The Helium 2 plant, which broke ground in May 2010, is the second helium project to be built in Qatar, and we are very pleased to report that in over 5 million man hours worked to complete this project, we have maintained a lost time incident rate (LTIR) of zero. Achieving such a remarkable safety milestone is a clear testimony to RasGas’ commitment to create and maintain a safe work environment in a complex construction project that involved thousands of contractors and employees,” said Hamad Rashid Al Mohannadi, RasGas Chief Executive Officer and Vice Chairman of Qatar Petroleum (QP).

Off-take agreements were signed with Air Liquide, Iwatani Corporation and Linde Gases, a Linde Group division in the second first half of 2010. Air Liquide will receive 50 per cent, Linde Gases 30 per cent and the Iwatani Corporation 20 per cent of the annual production up to 2032.

The plant is co-owned by Qatar Liquefied Gas Company Limited 2 (Qatargas 2), Qatar Liquefied Gas Company Limited 3 (Qatargas 3), Qatar Liquefied Gas Company Limited 4 (Qatargas 4) and Ras Laffan Liquefied Natural Gas Company Limited (3) “RL3.”

Formed over billions of years, helium is often trapped in deposits of natural gas making it expensive to extract, purify and make available for commercial use. The design and construction
of the helium purification and liquefaction plant incorporated highly complex and advanced technology that will capture, extract and refine crude helium from six existing LNG processing trains, including: RasGas’ Trains 6 and 7, and Qatargas’ Trains 4, 5, 6 and 7.

Helium is used across a number of industries including Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scanners, electronics for superconductors and in the retail and entertainment businesses as a pressurising, lifting and purge gas.

Future growth in consumption of helium is expected to be driven by demand from electronic manufacturers in Japan, China, Republic of Korea and Taiwan. Since 2000, world demand for helium has increased by around 20 per cent – the bulk of this increasing demand can be met from Qatar’s North Field for many years.

Photo captions:

**Image 1:** The Helium 2 plant is expected to produce approximately 1.3 billion cubic feet per year. Qatar is now the World’s largest exporter and second largest producer of helium.

**Image 2:** RasGas has started production and delivery from its Helium 2 plant to contracted customers Air Liquide, Linde Gas and Iwatani.

**Image 3:** RasGas manages and operates the Helium 2 purification and liquefaction unit which is the world’s largest, measuring 20 metres long and more than 8 metres high.

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**About RasGas**

RasGas Company Limited (RasGas) is a Qatari joint stock company established in 2001 by Qatar Petroleum and ExxonMobil RasGas Inc. RasGas acts as the operating company for and on behalf of the owners of the liquefied natural gas (LNG) projects RL, RL (II) and RL3 (Project Owners). With operations facilities based in Ras Laffan Industrial City, Qatar, RasGas’ principal activities are to extract, process, liquefy, store and export LNG and its derivatives from Qatar’s North Field. RasGas, on behalf of the Project Owners, exports to countries across Asia, Europe and the Americas with a total LNG production capacity of approximately 37 million tonnes per annum.

For pipeline sales gas to the domestic market, RasGas also operates the Al Khaleej Gas Projects, AKG-1 and AKG-2 supplying approximately 2.0 billion standard cubic feet (Bscf) per day. RasGas is currently adding production capacity by building the Barzan Gas Project which when fully operational in 2015, is expected to supply approximately 1.4 Bscf of additional sales gas per day to the Qatari market to meet growing demand for energy at power stations and downstream industries.

RasGas currently operates the Ras Laffan Helium Plant which was established in 2003 and came on stream in 2005. The plant extracts, purifies and liquefies helium from the North Field. The second helium plant entered production in June 2013 bringing the total liquid Helium production capacity to 1.96 Bscf per year. [www.rasgas.com](http://www.rasgas.com)

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1 ISO containers (each container has 11,000 US Gallons volume capacity) per annum.