

FIRST BIODIESEL FUEL EXPORTED



Chief Minister Clare Martin and Natural Fuels Chairman John Hewson with the Chemstar Venus at East Arm Wharf.

AUSTRALIA'S first ever export of environmentally friendly biodiesel took place today from Darwin's East Arm Wharf.

The 8.8 million litres (7,700 metric tonnes) produced by Natural Fuels Australia was loaded on the freighter *Chemstar Venus* for shipment to Asia and the USA.

ConAgra Trade Group, on behalf of Natural Fuels Australia, facilitated the shipment, the first of what is expected to become a regular event as Natural Fuels Australia builds production capacity at its Darwin facility.

Commenting while watching the loading of the biodiesel Chairman of Natural Fuel Ltd Dr John Hewson said, "We specifically built the Darwin plant to take advantage of its deep water port, and the industrial park that the NT government had the vision to establish."

The biodiesel being exported has been sourced from members of the Round Table on Sustainable Palm Oil.

Natural Fuels Australia's Darwin operation is the largest biodiesel plant in Australia and is capable of producing 122,500 metric tonnes per annum along with 12,000 metric tonnes of pharmaceutical-grade glycerine.

Air North introduces new jet

TERRITORY AIRLINE Air North unveiled its new \$40 million Embraer E70 jet in front of an invited group of 800 people.

The 74 seat Brazilian-made aircraft will be used on the Darwin to McArthur River route, as well as the Darwin Kununurra, Perth and Bali routes.

Air North co-owner and Chief Executive Michael Bridge

said the mining industry was a significant contributor to the regional carrier's rising earnings, with contract charters making up 40 per cent of their business.

TechnologyOne opens in Darwin

TECHNOLOGYONE Limited, a leading Australian provider of enterprise business software solutions, will open a new office in Darwin to complement its expansion plans and serve the needs of its existing clients in the Northern Territory.

With an established client base in the Northern Territory, including Darwin Airport, Darwin Ports Corporation and Sky City, TechnologyOne aims to grow its business with the Northern Territory's education, commercial, local government, utilities, Territory government and healthcare sectors.

TechnologyOne provides its software solutions to more than 100 local councils in Australia and New Zealand. Approximately 4.5 million rates notices are produced using TechnologyOne software, representing almost 25% of all Australasian ratepayers.

New Commonwealth Bank development

DARWIN'S old Commonwealth Bank will be turned into a new high-rise apartment and shopping complex.

Developer Phillip Grice has lodged an Application for Assessment of the Smith Street site with the Territory Government.

The site will be redeveloped into two buildings, one two storeys high and the other 22 storeys high, with both designed to retain the 1940's look of the bank building.

It will include shops restaurants, offices and will also contain a 24-suite hotel, 16 serviced apartments and 33 apartments.

The Grice family owns Fanny Bay Investments, which has a real estate focus in the Darwin area.

New hotel for Darwin Airport

DARWIN AIRPORT RESORT Managing Director John 'Foxy' Robinson is looking to build a new three star hotel across the street from his existing resort on Norman Breauly Drive in Marrara.

The new hotel will have 131 rooms in a five-storey building.

Darwin Airport Chief Executive Ian Kew told the *NT News* that he hoped the required approvals and a lease agreement would be finalised soon and that construction could begin before the year's end.

The Darwin International Airport leases airport land from the Commonwealth Government and sublets various sites to tenants.