



Yara forms JV for Australia ammonium nitrate plant

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OSLO, May 13 (Reuters) - Norwegian fertiliser group Yara (YAR.OL: Quote, Profile, Research) has signed an initial deal with Burrup Holdings Pty (BHPL) to build a 350,000 tonnes technical ammonium nitrate (TAN) plant in Australia, the company said on Tuesday.

BHPL is owned 30 percent by Yara and 70 percent by Pankaj Oswal. The new company, Burrup Nitrates, would be a 50/50 joint venture built next to the Burrup Fertiliser ammonia facility already in operation and owned by BHPL.

"The TAN plant would primarily supply the fast-growing iron ore mining operations in the Pilbara region of Australia," Yara International ASA said.

"Strong global demand for energy and minerals has created a tight supply-demand balance for technical ammonium nitrate," Yara Chief Executive Thorleif Enger said in the statement.

"The combination of the competitive and well-located Burrup ammonia facility and Yara's experience in ammonium nitrate production and marketing creates an attractive expansion opportunity," the company said.

(Reporting by Aasa Christine Stoltz)