



Tiwest set to expand

TIWEST Joint Venture plans to expand its titanium dioxide pigment plant at Kwinana following an increase in annual production.

Tiwest Joint Venture is the world's largest integrated titanium minerals production and manufacturing company.

Established in 1988, the company operated six sites in Western Australia, building on the development of high-quality mineral sand reserves and applying sophisticated processing technology.

The Kwinana plant has a current annual capacity of 110,000 tonnes and produces chloride

process titanium dioxide.

The expansion will increase the plant's annual capacity by 40,000-50,000 tonnes.

This additional capacity is expected to come on line in 2009.

Tiwest general manager of pigment operations Tony Martin said detailed engineering work of the expansion site had started and the regulatory approval process begun.

Mr Martin said the Kwinana plant had operated for the past 15 years and went through the consultant and environmental review process to increase production up to 180,000 tonnes some

time ago.

"We are only now implementing the approval we obtained previously," he said. "We do have 275 permanent staff, there will obviously be more employment during construction phase and when commissioned we will be employing more contract workers, this all adds up to benefit the local economy."

Joint Venture partner Tronox Western Australia Pty Ltd chairman and CEO Tom Adams said the additional capacity would allow Tronox to meet the titanium dioxide demands in the rapidly growing Asia-Pacific region.



An aerial view of the Tiwest plant.