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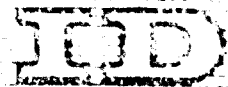
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TENTATIVE DATA ON PROJECT
TO PRODUCE 300,000 METRIC TONS/YEAR
OF SULPHURIC ACID ON THE BASIS OF IMPORTED PYRITE ^{1/}

presented by

the Project Promoters

^{1/} The views and opinions expressed in this paper are those of the project promoters and do not necessarily reflect the views of the secretariat of UNIDO. This document has been reproduced without formal editing.

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NOTE

This document consists only of a bare summary of information on the project; it is designed to provide for potential foreign investors no more than a profile upon which to formulate a preliminary assessment of interest in principle. It does NOT pretend to be a complete description or to limit in any way productive discussion, investigation or negotiation between interested parties.

Once they have expressed positive interest, foreign partners normally prefer to be involved in the detailed investigation of the project. The Tunisian National Centre for Industrial Studies as well as UNIDO under its Industrial Investment Promotion Programme will also be pleased to assist both local sponsors and foreign contributors with further elaboration and additional studies as required.

1. PRODUCTION OF SULPHURIC ACID
TO PRODUCE 300,000 TONS/YEAR OF SULPHURIC ACID ON
THE ISLAND OF MENACEE, TUNISIA

It is planned to install a chemical plant which will produce sulphuric acid from imported pyrite. This is an idea project, conceived as a possible alternative to the project of establishing a plant at Menacee, which will use the natural gypsum deposits of Tunisia.^{1/}

Production

Estimated Capacity 300,000 tons/year
" Labour force 60 workers and employees
" Source of raw material will be 221,400 tons/year of imported pyrite.

Investment

	<u>Dinar</u>	<u>US \$</u>
The installation of equipment for		
(a) the gridding process of pyrite	1,750,000	3,500,000
(b) the absorption of oxidation process ...	3,000,000	6,000,000
	<u>4,750,000</u>	<u>9,500,000</u>
Total Investment:	4,750,000	9,500,000

It is stated in the tentative appraisal that the total cost includes the cost for civil engineering works and technical assistance.

Technical Characteristics

The project is presently under study with the National Centre of Industrial Studies in Tunisia. The production costs are said to be comparatively low, since the basic raw material, imported pyrite, is pure and of standard quality.

A final decision on the plant site has not yet been made. It is suggested to take into consideration the area of Sfax and Gabes.

^{1/} Please refer to "PRELIMINARY DATA ON A PROJECT TO PRODUCE 300,000 TONS/YEAR OF SULPHURIC ACID" as circulated by UNILCO for the Tunisian Investment Promotion Posting.

Costs and Estimated Profitability

The cost of investment for the production of sulphuric acid on the basis of imported pyrite is estimated to be considerably lower than the production on the basis of local minerals. Therefore, it is expected to gain an attractive profit. However, it should also be kept in mind that the profitability of the operation depends entirely on the CIF cost for the imported pyrite and the price situation at the world market. This question will have to be studied in depth.

II. FACTUAL DATA.

1. Requested external contribution

- (a) Financing: This point needs to be clarified with the Tunisian promoters and will be discussed with the interested foreign partner(s).
- (b) Joint Venture or Direct Investment: Information has not yet been made available and depends on the specific terms of the envisaged investment agreement.
- (c) Know-How: Depends on the final decision about the technical process to be applied. No details are given of the arrangement for technical assistance so far.

2. Tunisian Contribution

The Tunisian contribution would be subject to a mutual agreement. The Tunisian Government is aware of the different alternatives for the production of sulphuric acid and will support any effort of potential investors towards a technically sound and economically justified project.

III. MARKET DATA

The chemical industry is called upon to play a major role in the economic development of Tunisia. This major effort of expansion can be explained as follows:

- (a) natural resources of minerals exist in the country;
- (b) a domestic market exists, which at the moment is supplied almost entirely from abroad;
- (c) a foreign market exists, either in the form of final consumption or in the form of intermediate consumption.

Generally the market aspects for sulphuric acids are said to be favourable, locally and abroad. However, it has to be taken into account that the import of pyrite and the export of sulphuric acid is a matter of international trade. This complicates the market forecast and entails some uncertainties. The interested parties should keep in mind, however, that the Tunisian authorities are aware of the problems involved and willing to discuss this matter.

IV. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT

The National Centre of Industrial Studies, Paris, has obtained agreement from UNIDO to recruit a consultant, who is an expert in the technical and economical aspects for the production of sulphuric acid. He will pay special attention to the manufacturing of sulphuric acid based on different sources of raw material supply and various kinds of technological processes.





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