

A full-page photograph of a male worker in a blue and orange high-visibility safety vest and safety glasses. He is wearing blue gloves and holding a handheld electronic device, possibly a barcode scanner or data collector. He is standing next to a large black gas cylinder with an orange handle. The background shows a warehouse or industrial setting with metal shelving and other gas cylinders.

# INTRODUCTION

African Oxygen Limited (Afrox) is sub-Saharan Africa's market leader in gases and welding products. Our business was founded in 1927, listed on the JSE in 1963, and has prospered by constantly meeting the needs of customers and developing solutions that add value to customers' applications.

We operate in South Africa and in seven other African countries and manage operations in five others on behalf of our parent company, The Linde Group; a world leading gases and engineering company with more than 50 000 employees working in over 100 countries worldwide. Linde's strategy is geared towards earnings-based, sustainable growth that focuses on the expansion of its international business with forward-looking products and services. Linde acts responsibly towards its shareholders, business partners, employees, society and the environment in each of its business areas, regions and locations across the globe. Linde is committed to technologies and products that unite the goals of customer value and sustainable development.

At Afrox, we believe technology holds the key to operating safely, protecting the environment and delivering unique solutions for our customers' requirements. Manufacturing of our gases and other products takes place on 48 different sites throughout southern Africa, comprising 33 units and 15 on-sites (automated plants not requiring operators), with some manufacturing sites hosting more than one unit. We continue to energise our efforts to introduce new equipment, design and manufacturing techniques and exploit cutting-edge technologies and research available as a member of The Linde Group.

