

Altona Polyethylene Plant Expansion (Vic)

- Union Carbide to increase total output to 110,000 TPY by 1981 by debottlenecking and modification of present facility. Expansion tied in with that of the Altona Ethylene plant, the supplier of ethylene. Cost \$100 million.

3. ALUMINUM-ALUMINA

Australia is the world's largest bauxite producer and produces 24 per cent of non-communist world's alumina, but only three per cent of it is aluminum. With bauxite and relatively cheap energy, the Australian aluminum industry will expand rapidly in the next few years, and the Chase Manhattan Bank estimates that, by 1990, the smelting capacity will be increased ninefold to reach two million TPY.

SMELTERS

- Existing capacity in Australia - 280,000 TPY in three smelters:
  1. Comalco Tasmania Smelter: 112,000 TPY
  2. Alcoa Pt. Henry Smelter: 100,000 TPY
  3. Alcan Kurri Kurri Smelter: 68,000 TPY (being expanded to 90,000 TPY)

Expansions

Kurri Kurri Aluminum Smelter Expansion (N.S.W.)

- Alcan. Recent expansion increased production to 68,000 TPY. Further expansion of 22,000 TPY, planned at estimated cost of \$60 million, will bring production to 90,000 TPY by 1981, when final expansion will begin to raise production to 130,000 TPY.

Point Henry Aluminum Smelter Expansion (Vic)

- Alcoa of Australia. To increase current production of 120,000 TPY by 57,000 TPY by addition of third potline. Estimated cost, \$130 million. Construction began in early 1979 for production early in 1981.

Bell Bay Aluminum Smelter Upgrading (Tas)

- Comalco. \$40 million. Improvement of smelter over 16-month period for completion June 1981. Will include slight increase of output from 112,000 TPY to 117,000 TPY.

New Plants

Alcan Gladstone Aluminum Smelter (Qld)

- Alcan Queensland Ltd. \$330 million. 100,000 TPY initial capacity to go to 250,000 TPY. Detailed feasibility study being carried out by Alcan (Montreal) to be completed early 1980. Expected start-up 1983. Construction began June 1980.