

## Inpex opens door for Dow Chemicals

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**THE Inpex deal has opened the door for leading chemical company Dow to set up a \$3 billion factory in Darwin Harbour.**

Inpex president Naoki Kuroda said yesterday the company intended to use the gas for domestic and commercial use in Japan - but was willing to sell some for downstream industry.

"Of course, it is a commercial program. We can negotiate with clients," he said.

"Up until now, we have had no contact with these clients."

The world's largest chemical company, Dow, told the Northern Territory News in June last year that it wanted to build a factory on Darwin Harbour which would pump money into the economy for the next 50 years.

But the project would go ahead only if the company could secure enough gas from Territory providers.

Dow Pacific president Jim McIlvenny said the supply of liquid natural gas was "critical" to the project.

"Without enough gas onshore, we can't come onshore."

The signing of the Inpex deal has opened the door for Dow to reconsider building in Darwin.

The Dow project would employ up to 4000 workers during construction and 500 during operation. Dow, which employs as many people as there are in Palmerston and Alice Springs combined, said it would strive to recruit a totally local workforce.

Opposition Leader Terry Mills raised concerns yesterday about building future industry at Darwin Harbour.

Mr Mills backed away from the CLP policy to develop Glyde Point, 40km northeast of Darwin, and said time should be spent finding an alternative site for downstream industry.

"I recognised the community concern, specifically on Glyde Point," he said. "There needs to be an alternative site, but I'm prepared to broaden it. In terms of downstream heavy industry, we've really got to make decisions about where this heavy industry is going to go".

Environment Centre NT co-ordinator Charles Roche agreed and said there needed to be an alternative site for heavy industry.