



## **NORTH WEST UPGRADING SELECTS THE IJK CONSORTIUM TO BUILD REACTOR VESSELS**

**Calgary, AB, February 26, 2007** – North West Upgrading (North West) signed a contract with the IJK Consortium to fabricate the high-temperature and high-pressure vessels in the hydroprocessing and hydrocracking units at its upgrader in Sturgeon County. The current contract is for the first 77,000 barrel per day of bitumen blend of the 231,000 barrel per day project.

North West chose the IJK Consortium to fabricate the vessels as it has a strong track record of exceeding scheduling and quality targets. North West anticipates delivery of the IJK vessels in early 2009 and has now secured the longest lead-time items critical to the Upgrader's success.

The IJK Consortium is a partnership of three leading companies: Japan Steel Works Ltd., Kobe Steel Ltd., and I.P.S. Services Inc. Together, this consortium has the world's longest fabrication history and is the leading fabricator of heavy wall reactors.

"The hydroprocessing and hydrocracking units are integral components in our upgrading process," said Robert Pearce, President and CEO of North West Upgrading. "North West is pleased to work with international industry expert the IJK Consortium. This organization has a proven and successful history in fabrication and we look forward to moving our project forward with their expertise."

### **About North West Upgrading**

North West Upgrading Inc. is a Calgary-based, privately-owned company building an independent, heavy oil upgrader in Alberta's Industrial Heartland. The Upgrader will enhance the economic value of Alberta's bitumen and heavy oil production by producing light, low sulphur products and diluent. The Upgrader will have a total processing capacity of 231,000 barrels per day of blended feedstock (150,000 barrels per day of crude bitumen) over three phases. North West anticipates it will receive regulatory approval in 2007, with construction to begin immediately thereafter to achieve start up for the first phase in 2010. All three phase are expected to be operating by 2015. For further information, please visit: [www.northwestupgrading.com](http://www.northwestupgrading.com).