Cosmodyne's Aspen 1000
Racks Up Frequent Flier Miles

In 1998, a Cosmodyne Aspen 1000 embarked on a South American odyssey that would span a length of five years. The high efficiency, modular air separation plant was purchased in 1996 by Indura, Chile's leading industrial gas company. Designed to cost-effectively produce liquid oxygen, liquid nitrogen, liquid argon, and gaseous nitrogen, the Aspen plant met the growing air separation needs of South America.

Emerging developments in the Peruvian industrial gas market prompted Indura to change the intended plant location from Chile to Peru. In 1998, the modular plant was transported from Southern California to its first site of installation in Lima, Peru.

The Aspen 1000 enjoyed a year of successful operation in Peru, before further economic opportunities initiated its relocation to Chile in 1999. Its new destination was an industrial facility, where the equipment would provide gaseous nitrogen and oxygen to the customer and the resulting LOX, LIN, and LAR to Indura for sale on the merchant market.

Indura proceeded to disassemble the plant and pack it for relocation. The modular construction of the Aspen's Air Treatment Module (ATM) minimized the efforts, and the plant was successfully transported to Chile in 2001. Over the course of the next year, Indura was able to obtain the necessary permits for commercial operation. Following approval in early 2002, the company upgraded the air separation plant and made the necessary modifications to change the operating electric power frequency from 60 to 50 Hz.

After years of travel, disassembly, and reassembly, the Aspen 1000 was determined to make Chile its final home. The Aspen 1000 has been in continuous operation for eight years continuously with normal conditions and performance. The standard structural design of the cold box withstood the 8.8 earthquake in February of 2010. Though local electrical power was out for two days, the unit was restarted with no complications after the temporary interruption. The plant has since continued to operate successfully at its Santiago location.