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Multiple contracts for Photovoltaic industry in Asia and Europe

press release

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Air Liquide Electronics

With **3,000 employees** and revenues of **€944 million** in 2007, Air Liquide Electronics has activities in **ultra-pure** and **specialty gases**, **new molecules**, **related equipment** and **customized services**.

The Electronics division management is based in Tokyo to enhance its proximity to the booming semiconductor, TFT-LCD and PV markets in Asia.

Air Liquide and the Photovoltaic industry

The PV industry is one of the **major growth sectors in the world**. In 2006, Air Liquide launched **ALUX**, a dedicated range, offering turnkey solutions (gas, equipment and associated services) **aimed at this industry**. In 2008, the Group already supports the photovoltaic industry in **more than 15 countries**. Air Liquide has launched dedicated R&D activities aimed at reducing Cost per Watt peak, a key challenge for this industry, and environmentally friendly solutions. Air Liquide accompanies its customers as they diversify in terms of **geographies** and **technologies**.

With **annual growth rates of more than 35%**, the **photovoltaic industry** is one of the world's booming business sectors. Combined photovoltaic installations are expected to contribute approximately 5% of the worldwide electricity generation by 2020. The production of solar cells requires **large quantities of ultra-pure gases**.

Air Liquide has just concluded multiple major turnkey gas supply contracts with some of the largest solar cell manufacturers in the world, confirming its position as the **number one gas supplier to this fast-growing industry**. These contracts complement Air Liquide's existing leadership in the PV market in Germany and Japan.

To fulfill these new long-term contracts, **Air Liquide will invest over €20 million** to supply **nitrogen and hydrogen** from **on-site generators** as well as **bulk mono-silane and other specialty gases**. **Air Liquide** will construct and manage the systems to safely distribute the products to these new customers.

In Eastern **China**, Air Liquide will provide a turnkey gas supply solution, consisting of carrier gases, specialty gases and turnkey equipment installation, to **one of the largest new Thin Film Photovoltaic production facilities in the world**, with target production of over **300 Megawatt peak**.

In **Greece**, **Helio Sphera** has chosen Air Liquide for the complete gas supply needs of its new Thin Film Photovoltaic manufacturing site, the **largest such facility to be built in the region**. The production capacity of this site will exceed **60 Megawatt peak**.

In the **Philippines**, Air Liquide has extended its relationship with **Sunpower**, a leading manufacturer of high-efficiency solar cells, solar panels and solar systems, by signing a contract for expanded total gas supply and services for its recent **crystalline-Silicon Photovoltaic 300 Megawatt peak Fab2 investment**. These services include carrier gases, specialty gases, on-site gas management, and turnkey gas equipment.

Francisco Martins, Air Liquide's Vice-President, Electronics, declared: **"We are very proud to continue our successful partnership with the PV industry manufacturers as they expand in China, India, Japan, South-East Asia, Europe and North America, setting up new long-term agreements with these key customers. These successes also illustrate Air Liquide's commitment to develop leading edge technologies and high value-added solutions for customers, confirming its position as the leading supplier of industrial gases for the photovoltaic industry. High-tech is one of the Group's key growth drivers."**

With more than **40,000 employees** in **75 countries**, Air Liquide is the **world leader** in industrial and medical gases and related services. The Group offers **innovative solutions** based on constantly enhanced **technologies** and produces **air gases (oxygen, nitrogen, argon, rare gases...)** and **many other gases including hydrogen**. The Group contributes to the manufacturing of **many everyday products**: bubbles in sparkling beverages, protective atmosphere for packed foods, oxygen for hospitals and homecare patients, ultra-pure gases for the semiconductor industry, hydrogen to desulfurize fuels...

Air Liquide is committed to **sustainable development** and helps to **protect life**. Founded in 1902, Air Liquide has successfully developed a long-term relationship with its shareholders built on **trust** and **transparency** and guided by the principles of **corporate governance**. Since the publication of its first consolidated financial statements in 1971, Air Liquide has posted **strong and steady earnings growth**. Sales in 2007 totaled **11,801 million euros**, with sales outside France accounting for almost 80%. Air Liquide is listed on the Paris stock exchange and is a component of the CAC 40 and Eurostoxx 50 indices (ISIN code FR 0000120073).