

## Australia: Further investment in a CO<sub>2</sub> recovery unit

### *press release*

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The **Australian market** in industrial applications for **carbon dioxide**, essentially fire fighting, wine making, carbonation of soft drinks, food preservation and freezing, cold chain preservation and water treatment, represents **200,000 tonnes per year** and has been **growing steadily by 4% annually** driven by food industries and water treatment.

In this context of continuous growth in demand for industrial merchant gases for the concerned applications, **Air Liquide** will invest around **€10 million in Australia in a carbon dioxide recovery unit**.

The Air Liquide unit will re-use up to 69,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> from the BassGas natural gas plant and be commissioned in 2010. The CO<sub>2</sub> recovered will be purified, liquefied and recycled for commercial use instead of being directly released into the atmosphere. The unit will be based in the Gippsland region of Victoria, near the township of Lang Lang, approximately 100 km south east of Melbourne.

**Jean-Pierre Duprieu**, Senior Vice-President Asia Pacific and member of the Group's Executive Committee, declared: ***"This new unit in Southern Australia will enable us to meet the growing needs of our customers, particularly in the environment, food, wine and beverage markets. This investment is in line with the Group's program of targeted investments in growing markets."***

#### **Industrial Merchant activities of Air Liquide**

The Industrial Merchant business line ensures the management of the production and distribution of **gases in bulk and cylinders**, and provides customers with the applications and services required for their implementation.

Its customers, who range from tradesmen to major businesses, use **industrial gases** in 5 key sectors:

- food and pharmaceuticals
- automobile and manufacturing
- crafts and distribution
- materials and energy
- technology and research.

**2008 revenue of Industrial Merchant business line** amounted to **€4.609 billion**.

## Air Liquide CO<sub>2</sub> activities in Australia

**Air Liquide has been operating in Australia for more than 50 years** and currently operates several CO<sub>2</sub> units for recovery, purification and liquefaction of CO<sub>2</sub> for sale to its customers in wine, food and beverage industries. Air Liquide is leader in the CO<sub>2</sub> business in Australia

## The use of carbon dioxide in industry

**Purified and liquefied carbon dioxide** is needed for **numerous industrial applications**: quick-freezing of food products, firefighting, controlled-temperature transport, carbonation of soft drinks, water treatment, etc.

*Air Liquide is the world leader in gases for industry, health and the environment, and is present in over 75 countries with 43,000 employees. Oxygen, nitrogen, hydrogen carbon dioxide and rare gases have been at the core of Air Liquide's activities since its creation in 1902. Using these molecules, Air Liquide continuously reinvents its business, anticipating the needs of current and future markets. The Group innovates to enable progress, to achieve dynamic growth and a consistent performance.*

*Air Liquide combines many products and technologies to develop valuable applications and services not only for its customers but also for society. **Innovative technologies** that curb polluting emissions, lower industry's energy use, recover and reuse natural resources or develop the energies of tomorrow, such as hydrogen, biofuels or photovoltaic energy... Oxygen for hospitals, homecare, fighting nosocomial infections...*

*A **partner for the long term**, Air Liquide relies on employee commitment, customer trust and shareholder support to pursue its vision of sustainable, competitive growth. The **diversity** of Air Liquide's teams, businesses, markets and geographic presence provides a solid and sustainable base for its development and strengthens its ability to push back its own limits, conquer new territories and build its future.*

*Air Liquide explores the best that air can offer to preserve life, staying true to its **sustainable development approach**. In 2008, the Group's revenues amounted to **€13.1 billion**, of which almost 80% were earned outside France. Air Liquide is listed on the Paris Euronext stock exchange (compartment A) and is a member of the CAC 40 and Dow Jones Euro Stoxx 50 indexes.*