



Further investments in Russia

press release

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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 is pursuing its development in Russia as the Group will build and operate a new Air Separation Unit in the Special Economic Zone "Alabuga". The ASU will have a production capacity of **40 tonnes per day of gaseous oxygen** to supply by pipeline its new customer Preiss-Daimler-Tatneft's fiberglass production unit and around **200 tonnes per day of liquid oxygen and liquid nitrogen** to supply customers in the region by road.

The Special Economic Zone "Alabuga", located 900 km east of Moscow, in the Republic of Tatarstan was created in 2005 to contribute to the development of the economies of the Republic of Tatarstan and the Russian Federation. This dynamic zone which aims at facilitating the development of major industrial projects already hosts nine companies and should reach 40 in the future.

The overall investment by Air Liquide is around €35 million for the production facilities and for the supply chain altogether. The commissioning of the unit will take place in the first half of 2011.

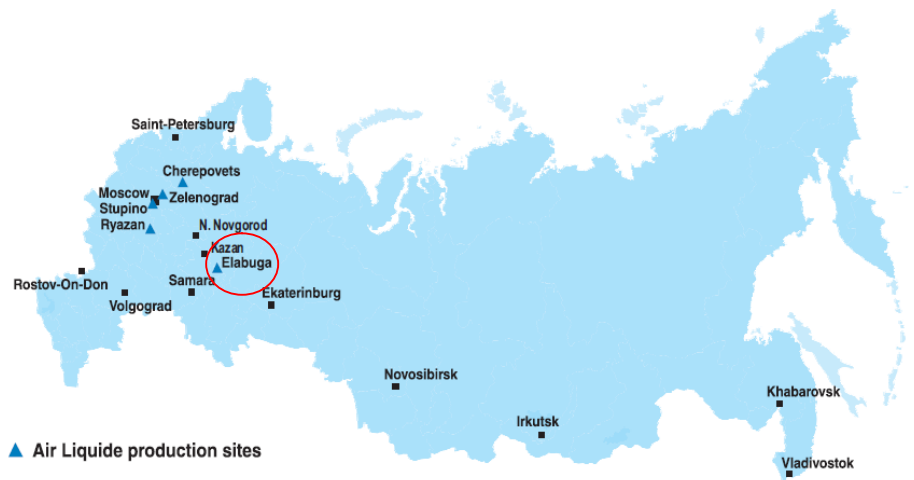
Guy Salzgeber, Vice-President European Industrial Business and member of the Group's Executive Committee, declared: ***"The Russian market presents an attractive growth potential and Air Liquide intends to continue its development in this country. In the present context, we believe this investment will contribute to draw even more dynamism to the economy of the region. This project is in accordance with the Group's long-term vision which aims to capture tomorrow's growth in Emerging economies."***

Air Liquide in Russia

Air Liquide in Russia has been based in Moscow since **1989** and was primarily concerned with the sale of industrial gas production equipment in Russia and Ukraine.

Air Liquide started its gas supply activities in 2005, in particular for **Severstal**, a leading national steel producer for which an Air Separation Unit, the **biggest gas unit in Russia**, with a production capacity of 3,000 tonnes per day of oxygen has been commissioned in 2007.

The Russian market for industrial gases, which has been growing **annually by 5%**, is still a market in development. Air Liquide operates several production units in Russia and has already invested **€150 million** in this market over the last years.



***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.*