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Air Liquide to power Canada's largest fleet of green forklifts

press release

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The **fuel cell forklift trucks** are the fastest growing segment of the hydrogen energy market. In addition to **producing no greenhouse gases**, these vehicles also offer a **productivity gain of 2% compared to battery powered forklift trucks**. In Canada, where numerous publicly-funded research and development programs on hydrogen energy have been launched in recent years, commercial applications are coming to light.

In this context, Air Liquide was recently awarded a contract to supply **the hydrogen, filling station and infrastructure** to power **Walmart's new fleet of green lift trucks** at the company's new distribution centre located in Alberta, Canada.

This fleet is the **largest deployment of fuel cell lift trucks** in Canada and the **first commercial contract in hydrogen energy** in the country. It is also the **first fleet** of its kind **supplied by the Air Liquide group**.

Air Liquide Canada will design a dedicated solution for material handling. It will integrate compact indoor hydrogen dispensers located throughout Walmart Canada's distribution center. Those dispensers will be able to supply a total of over 100 kg per day and fill vehicles in **less than 2 minutes**. This fast filling generates a significant productivity gain compared to battery swap operations for conventional electric forklifts. Air Liquide will also supply the hydrogen, which in Canada is produced using **98% renewable energy sources**, such as hydroelectricity.

Over forty-five Air Liquide hydrogen stations have been installed throughout the world to date. Other publicly-funded programs in Canada include **the Vancouver and Montreal-Trudeau airports demonstration project**, and the **Whistler station**, which keeps BC Transit's fleet of 20 hydrogen buses on the road. In **Korea, two new hydrogen filling stations** dedicated to cars have just been commissioned.

François Darchis, Senior Vice-President, Air Liquide Group, and a member of the Executive Committee, commented: "**We are very pleased to provide the hydrogen and filling infrastructure for this first fleet in Canada. It is another step towards the global market Air Liquide has been anticipating. We are proud to accompany the development of this technological innovation that will help to preserve the environment. Both Energy and the Environment are growth drivers of the Air Liquide Group.**"

Hydrogen, an energy carrier

The world of energy is in the midst of deep change and **hydrogen is one of the solutions that offer a response in the short term to the challenges of sustainable mobility**: reducing greenhouse gases, local pollution in our cities and dependency on oil-based fuels. Used in the fuel cell, hydrogen combines with oxygen from air to produce electricity, with water as the only by-product.

Hydrogen can be produced from a various range of energy sources, natural gas, in particular, but also renewable energy sources. Hydrogen thus has great potential to provide clean energy and ensure reliability of supplies.

Air Liquide is present across the entire hydrogen energy chain (production, distribution, high-pressure storage, fuel cells and hydrogen filling stations).

Air Liquide in Canada

Founded in 1911, Air Liquide Canada employs more than **1,400 people** and works with more than **80,000 customers**. Present in Canada's major industrial regions, Air Liquide supplies a number of industries such as aeronautics, automotive, food & beverages, chemicals, defense, electronics, energy, metallurgy, mining, and metal fabrication.

Air Liquide is the world leader in gases for industry, health and the environment, and is present in over **75 countries** with **42,300 employees**. Oxygen, nitrogen, hydrogen 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.

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... Air Liquide combines many products and technologies to develop valuable applications and services not only for its customers but also for society.

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 2009, the Group's revenues amounted to **€12 billion**, of which almost 80% were generated 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.