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Germany: acquisition of a large syngas plant

press release

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Air Liquide in Germany

has around **4,000 employees** and serves about **300,000 customers**. Revenue in 2009 came to approximately **€2 billion**.

The Large Industries business line of Air Liquide

offers **gas and energy solutions** that improve process efficiency and help achieve greater respect for the environment, mainly to the **refining and natural gas, chemicals, metals and energy** markets. 2009 revenues were **€3,219 million**.

In **Germany**, Air Liquide has just signed an agreement with **OXEA GmbH** for the acquisition of its **syngas plant** based in **Oberhausen (Rhine-Ruhr area)**. Anti-trust authorities have given their approval.

This large plant has a production capacity of approximately **83,000 Nm³ per hour of syngas - a mixture of hydrogen and carbon monoxide** - used in the production of oxo-intermediates and oxo-derivatives, which are used in high-quality coatings, lubricants and cosmetic and pharmaceutical products.

In close proximity to this syngas facility, Air Liquide is already operating three air separation units that have also delivered oxygen to OXEA for several years now. Air Liquide is currently building a fourth air separation unit in Oberhausen, with a production capacity of 2,400 tonnes of oxygen per day (as announced on June 5, 2008).

Guy Salzgeber, a member of Air Liquide's Executive Committee, Vice-President for North and Central Europe, said: *"We are very glad to welcome the new employees from the OXEA plant to the Air Liquide Group. This takeover offers a good illustration of our growth strategy in existing large marketplaces and meets the increasing customer demand for the outsourcing of industrial gases activities. It will generate immediate revenue and intensify our longstanding relationship of cooperation with OXEA. Through this acquisition, Air Liquide reinforces its development in Germany and strengthens its position in the Rhine-Ruhr, one of the largest and leading industrial areas in Europe."*

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, expand into 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.