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Italy: commissioning of a new oxygen production unit

press release

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Air Liquide is announcing the commissioning of a new high-pressure and high-purity gaseous oxygen production unit in Italy. It was installed in Castelnuovo del Garda, near Verona, where Air Liquide already operates another Air Separation Unit. With a production capacity of around 800 tonnes per day, the new unit will bring the total production capacity on this site to 1,100 tonnes of oxygen per day. **The total investment amounts to around €40 million** (announced June 5, 2008).

This **new production capacity** will enable Air Liquide to meet the increasing demand of its customers who are connected to the **700 km long pipeline network that extends into Po Valley, between Genoa and Padua**. This network notably supplies the steelmaker Arvedi, located in Cremona, as well as many customers in northern Italy.

Air Liquide in Italy

Present in the country since 1909, Air Liquide Italy employs **1,600 people** and is the **market leader**. **100,000 customers** are supplied by Air Liquide throughout the country.

Its customers include steel, chemical and petrochemical industries in major industrial areas, different industrial processes (metals, glass, food, laboratories etc.), electronics, as well as medical gases and services to hospitals and homecare patients.

The YangO₂ range of production units

Air Liquide **standardizes** its air separation units using medium-sized **compact core modules** that are **easy to deliver** across the world, and that are assembled differently depending on the desired production capacity. This standardization approach allows for a **significant reduction in unit lead times and ensures competitive prices**. YangO₂ includes the Group's latest technological innovations.

This new **standardized "YangO₂ unit"** was designed and built by Air Liquide Hangzhou, Air Liquide's Engineering & Construction center in China. It is **the first production unit of its kind to be installed in Europe**.

Augustin de Roubin, Vice-President Southern and Eastern Europe of the Air Liquide Group and member of the Executive Committee, commented: **"The decision to invest in a new production unit in Italy, in a strategic industrial area for Group activities, demonstrates our will to develop in this country. With 12 production units installed in the region and more than €100 million invested in Italy over the past 5 years, Air Liquide intends to support the development of its customers and consolidate its leadership in Italy."**

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, and metals** markets. 2009 revenues were **€3,219 million**.

***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.*