



Paris and Al-Khobar, May 23th, 2011

## Saudi Arabia: further investments

*press release*

### **Contacts:**

#### **Corporate Communications**

Corinne Estrade-Bordry  
+ 33 (0)1 40 62 51 31  
Alexandra Mallen  
+ 33 (0)1 40 62 59 62

#### **Air Liquide Middle East Communications**

Lamiaa Brantener  
+971 (4) 8816001

#### **Investor Relations**

Virginia Jeanson  
+33 (0)1 40 62 57 37  
Annie Fournier  
+33 (0)1 40 62 57 18

### **Air Liquide in the Middle East**

With **600 employees**, Air Liquide is present in **Egypt, Lebanon, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria and the United Arab Emirates**, where the Group has its Middle East headquarters.

For 5 years now, the Group has opened production sites in close proximity to its customers in promising industrial basins. These investments have been followed by the development of distribution logistics and the laying of pipeline networks. This growth, based on the technological reliability of Air Liquide's solutions, has been complemented by strategic acquisitions in this zone.

From 2005 to 2010, Air Liquide has decided to invest around 1 billion US dollars in the Middle East.

The **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is the largest economy in the Middle East**. Growth is driven by the expansion of the refining and petrochemical industries and the development of infrastructure projects. Air Liquide, **the leading global player in the Middle East industrial gases market**, announces new successes in this growth region.

Saudi Aramco and Air Liquide Arabia announce that they have **signed a new long-term nitrogen supply agreement** for **Saudi Aramco's operations in Qurayyah**, in the Eastern Province. This nitrogen will be used by Saudi Aramco in the processing of seawater related to oil production.

Under the terms of the agreement, **Air Liquide Arabia will invest more than 35 million US dollars (more than €25 million) in two Air Separation Units with a total production capacity of 500 tonnes per day**. The facility will be designed and built by Air Liquide Engineering teams and commissioned in **2012**. **It will also support growing industrial merchant needs in the Eastern Province**.

This new contract follows Air Liquide Arabia's **signature of a hydrogen supply agreement** in September 2010 for Saudi Aramco's **large-scale refinery in Yanbu**.

Also in Saudi Arabia, **Air Liquide Al Khafrah Industrial Gases** has started up a new high purity filling center in **Dammam** to deliver specialty gases to its key petrochemical customers. The investment amount for these new capabilities and the supply chain for bulk gases is **10 million US dollars (more than €7 million)**.

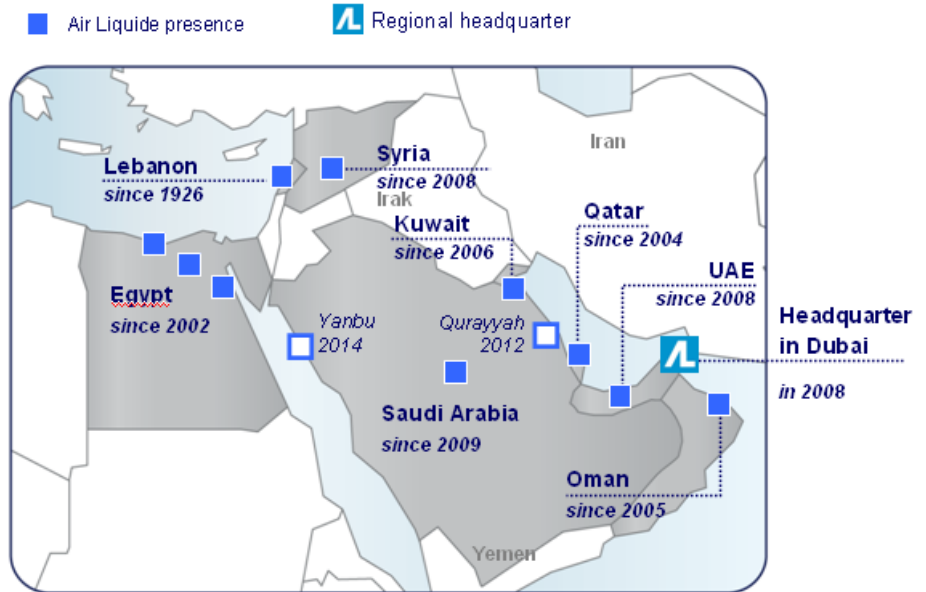
**Pierre Dufour**, Senior Executive Vice-President of the Air Liquide Group supervising the Middle East Zone, commented: ***"With those new investments, Air Liquide demonstrates its capacity to accompany its customers at all stages of their industrial processes particularly in the main industrial hubs. These investments also reinforce our growing presence in all aspects of the Saudi Arabia economy, where we continue to develop our industrial gas infrastructure in support, not only of the energy sector, a growth driver for Air Liquide, but also in the evolving non-energy sector."***

## Air Liquide footprint in the Middle East

### Air Liquide in Saudi Arabia

**Air Liquide Arabia** is the Large Industries activity in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, headquartered in Al-Khobar.

**Air Liquide Al Khafrah Industrial Gases** is the Industrial Merchant branch of the Air Liquide Group in Saudi Arabia, headquartered in Riyadh.



**Air Liquide is the world leader in gases for industry, health and the environment, and is present in 80 countries with 43,600 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 2010, the Group's revenues amounted to **€13.5 billion**, of which more than 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.