

3rd Quarter 2011: solid activity levels 2011 objective confirmed

press release

3rd Quarter 2011 highlights

- **Europe:** site takeover and new investments in Turkey (petrochemicals); continued development in Eastern Europe
- **Asia:** new contracts in Large Industries and successful issue of Renminbi-denominated bonds for a total amount of € 300 M
- **Photovoltaic:** many new contracts (United States, China, India, Vietnam, Morocco) and in France, implementation of a pilot R&D photovoltaic cells line
- **Healthcare:** acquisition of the leader in Germany for in home infusion therapy
- **Hydrogen:** demonstration in France of hydrogen-electric vehicles

Upcoming events

Salon Actionaria:

November 18 and 19, 2011

2011 annual results:

February 17, 2012

Annual Shareholders' Meeting:

May 9, 2012

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3 rd Quarter 2011 sales	Variation 2011/2010	
	published	comparable*
<i>In million of euros</i>		
Group sales	€ 3,597 M	+4.9%
of which Gas & Services	€ 3,223 M	+5.9%
		+7.7%

*on a comparable basis: excluding impact of currency, natural gas and significant perimeter impacts

Group sales for the 2011 3rd Quarter were **3,597 million euros**, up **+4.9%** as published and up **+6.6%** on a comparable basis. Sales in **Gas & Services** reached **3,223 million euros**, up **+7.7%** on a comparable basis. This growth reflects the solid activity levels seen in the 3rd Quarter.

Large Industries experienced numerous start-ups and ramp-ups largely compensating for lower demand from a few metal producers. The **Industrial Merchant** activity has improved slightly this quarter on growth in Asia and the Americas, and with rising prices. **Electronics** continued to achieve strong progress in spite of Equipment and Installation sales coming back to usual levels. **Healthcare** is growing at a sustained rate, boosted by the Home Healthcare activity. Events in Africa and the Middle East have had little impact on the Group overall.

Year to date, Gas & Services sales rose **+9.5%** (comparable), in line with the objectives of the ALMA 2015 program. The growth rate in sales is robust in **Advanced Economies** (+6% for the first 9 months of 2011) and very dynamic in **Developing Economies** (+24%).

Efficiency gains, reaching **192 million euros** at the end of September, are ahead of full-year objectives and contribute to the Group's operating performance. The debt level is under control and the Group has diversified its sources of financing.

Commenting on the 3rd Quarter 2011, **Benoît Potier, Chairman and CEO of the Air Liquide Group**, stated:

"The 3rd Quarter is characterized by solid growth in Gas & Services sales, which is globally in line with performance in the previous quarter.

The investment momentum continues: the portfolio of opportunities remains high, and our investment decisions totaled 1.5 billion euros as of September 30. Air Liquide continues to diversify its positions in its markets and to strengthen its presence worldwide.

In the face of an unsettled economic and financial situation, particularly in Europe with the tension over sovereign debt, the Group can rely on the robustness of its business model and its ability to adapt in pursuit of its long term development.

In this context, and assuming normal economic conditions, Air Liquide is confident in its ability to continue to generate steady growth of net profit in 2011."

Paris, October 26, 2011



2011 third quarter revenue

Solid activity levels
Robust business development model

in millions of euros	Q3 2010	Q3 2011	Q3 11/10 change		YTD 11/10 change
			as published	comparable*	comparable*
Gas and Services	3,043	3,223	+ 5.9%	+ 7.7%	+ 9.5%
Engineering and Construction	186	158	- 15.3%	- 14.4%	- 21.9%
Other Activities	200	216	+ 8.0%	+ 8.9%	+ 8.9%
Total revenue	3,429	3,597	+ 4.9%	+ 6.6%	+ 7.7%

*comparable: excluding the impact of currency, natural gas and significant scope

Activity levels remained **solid** during 3rd quarter 2011. Comparable Gas and Services quarterly revenue growth reached + 7.7% despite a high basis of comparison. For the first nine months of the year, growth stood at + 9.5%.

Efficiency projects continued to deliver in line with the Alma 2015 objective of over 200 million euros per year. Excluding the currency impact, net indebtedness was down compared to June 30, 2011.

Numerous investment decisions were made over the quarter, with 38 projects signed for a total investment of 535 million euros. Over the first nine months, investment decisions amounted to 1.5 billion euros. As of June 30, the 12-month portfolio of opportunities increased to 3.9 billion euros, thus confirming the vitality of the Groups growth drivers.

1. Revenue analysis

Group revenue stood at **3,597 million euros** in the 3rd quarter, up + 4.9% as published. Adjusted for a negative currency impact, a moderately positive natural gas impact and the sale of a European Electronics subsidiary, comparable growth reached **+ 6.6%** for the quarter.

→ *The changes discussed below are all reported on a comparable basis, excluding the impact of changes in currency, natural gas and significant scope.*

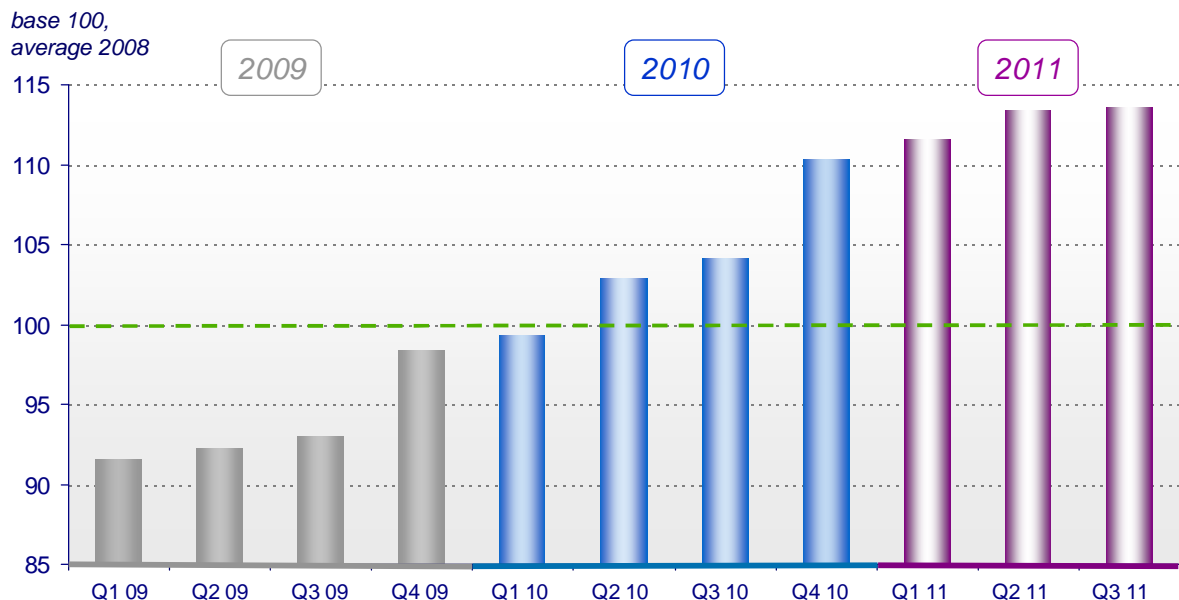
1.1 Gas and Services

Gas and Services revenue for the 3rd quarter 2011 increased by + 7.7% compared to the 3rd quarter 2010. The performance reflected growth of + 19% in the developing economies, driven by strong domestic demand and the start-up and ramp-up of new facilities. Activity in the advanced economies continued to improve, growing by + 5%. The slowdown in growth between the 1st half and the 3rd quarter 2011 is attributable to:

- ✓ a higher basis of comparison including the 2010 site takeovers,
- ✓ a return to more normal Electronics Equipment and Installation sales after the strong rebound of the investment cycle in 2010 and beginning of 2011,
- ✓ a slowdown in demand from metal producers in Western Europe and Canada.

Start-ups, ramp-ups, site takeovers and acquisitions contributed + 4% of the quarter's growth.

Quarterly Gas and Services activity indicator, base 100, 2008 average*



* comparable revenue (excluding forex, natural gas and significant perimeter impacts), adjusted for the number of days per month

Gas and Services revenue by geographical area

in millions of euros	Q3 2010	Q3 2011	Q3 11/10 change	
			published	comparable*
Europe	1,555	1,621	+4.2%	+4.3%
Americas	708	728	+2.9%	+ 10.6%
Asia-Pacific	697	791	+13.4%	+ 12.5%
Middle East and Africa	83	83	+0.0%	+5.1%
Gas and Services	3,043	3,223	+ 5.9%	+7.7%

*comparable: excluding the impact of currency, natural gas and significant scope

Gas and Services revenue by activity

in millions of euros	Q3 2010	Q3 2011	Q3 11/10 change	
			published	Comparable*
Industrial Merchant	1,217	1,238	+ 1.7%	+3.4%
Large Industries	1,036	1,157	+11.6%	+ 11.3%
Healthcare	481	511	+6.2%	+7.2%
Electronics	309	317	+ 2.9%	+13.2%
Gas and Services	3,043	3,223	+ 5.9%	+ 7.7%

*comparable: excluding the impact of currency, natural gas and significant scope

Gas and Services remained stable, even though the basis for comparison was less favorable including the site takeovers in Germany, South Korea and the United States, consolidated from mid-2010. **Large Industries** growth stood at + 11.3%, driven by the year's start-ups and despite the numerous client maintenance stoppages over the 3rd quarter. **Industrial Merchant** grew by + 3.4%, in line with the trend observed early in the year, thanks to the vitality of the developing economies and robust demand in North America. Activity continued to recover progressively in Western Europe. There has been a gradual return to normal in Japan following the catastrophe of March 2011, with sales that were slightly higher compared to the same period in 2010. **Healthcare** growth stood at + 7.2%, in line with the business line's objectives. The **Electronics** activity remained dynamic at + 13.2%, due to the signature of new contracts, particularly in China, and despite a return to more normal Equipment and Installation sales and activity that remained weak in Japan.

Europe

3rd quarter 2011 revenue for Europe amounted to **1,621 million euros**, up **+ 4.3%**, growing slightly less relative to the 1st half. Industrial Merchant trends continued with notably an improvement in Southern Europe. The slowdown in growth in Large Industries compared to previous quarters reflects a decline in oxygen volumes following inventory adjustments in the metals sector, and a higher basis for comparison that included a site takeover in Germany. Electronics growth remained substantial while that of Healthcare remained regular.

Industrial Merchant activity was down slightly at **- 0.9%**. Excluding internal transfers, the trend is positive at just over + 1%. Developing economies grew by nearly + 18% due to new capacities coming on stream and acquisitions in Russia and Poland. France and Germany are stable. Activity in Spain was virtually flat and the trend in Southern Europe became slightly positive. Liquid demand remains stronger than in Cylinders. The pricing

contribution has now become positive, although it is still not fully compensating cost inflation, particularly in energy and transport. It should continue to improve over the next quarters.

Growth in **Large Industries** stood at **+ 5.5%**. The slowdown in relation to previous quarters is explained by a small decline in oxygen demand of certain clients in the metals market, the one-month maintenance outage of a major co-generation unit in Rotterdam, and the July 2010 takeover of the synthetic gases site in the Ruhr valley network in Germany now included in the comparison basis. Growth in hydrogen continued during the period.

Healthcare grew by **+ 6.0%** this quarter thanks to the continuing growth of the Home healthcare activity, helped by acquisitions in Germany and France. Hospital demand for medical gases remained solid throughout the region, in a context of ongoing pressures on public spending in Europe. The Hygiene activity continued to maintain steady growth.

Electronics again posted significant growth, at **+ 27.6%** on a comparable basis, thanks in particular to the completion of an Equipment and Installation contract for a new production facility (*fab*) in Italy and sustained gases demand. The comparison basis has been adjusted for the June sale of an Equipment activity supplying tool manufacturers in the Electronics sector.

Americas

Third quarter 2011 revenue for the Americas totaled **728 million euros, up + 10.6%**. All business lines contributed to this performance, demonstrating the solid level of demand in North America, which rose by nearly + 9%, and the continuing vitality in South America, which grew by + 14%.

Growth in **Industrial Merchant** was steady at **+ 6.7%**, driven by a continuing recovery in demand in North America and particularly in Canada, steady demand for services for the oil and gas exploration & production sector and price increases to cover higher transport costs. Activity continues to be dynamic in South America and specifically in Argentina, thanks to increasing demand and significant price increases to cover high inflation.

Large Industries revenue grew by **+ 11.2%**, driven by a particularly competitive chemicals activity in the United States, solid hydrogen demand for the refining sector and the ongoing ramp-ups of new units in South America. However, there were numerous scheduled client maintenance stoppages in the United States.

Third quarter growth for the **Healthcare** activity stood at **+ 9.5%**, sustained by the solid progression of medical gases in the United States and strong demand from both hospitals and Home healthcare in Latin America.

Electronics posted a **+ 38.4%** increase in sales. The Equipment and Installation projects for new semi-conductor production units in the United States have now been completed. New carrier gas contracts are starting up.

Asia-Pacific

Asia-Pacific revenue amounted to **791 million euros** for 3rd quarter 2011, **up + 12.5%**. Growth was mixed depending on the country and business line. Japan is gradually recovering from the disasters of March. Development in China continues, with growth that remained substantial at + 30%, due to new facilities and strong domestic demand. As expected, Electronics growth slowed because of lower Equipment and Installation sales than in the 1st half 2011.

Industrial Merchant activity grew by **+ 7.1%** in the 3rd quarter, higher than in the 2nd quarter due to a moderate recovery in Japan. Demand remained strong in the rest of the

region and capacity utilization of the new Liquid facilities has continued to improve, particularly in China.

Large Industries growth over the period remained very solid at **+ 29.7%**, reflecting the numerous start-ups in the region, particularly in China, and the ramp-up of a major hydrogen unit inaugurated in Singapore at the end of 2010. The basis of comparison included, since July, the takeover of a synthetic gas site in South Korea in the 2nd quarter 2010.

The **Electronics** business line posted moderate growth of **+ 3.0%**. Growth in the previous quarters benefited from substantial Equipment and Installation sales in China and Japan, in line with the Electronics client investment cycle. Gas sales in Japan were up sharply compared to 2nd quarter 2011, although still below the 3rd quarter 2010 levels. In China, the recent signings for photovoltaic projects contributed to a growth rate of over + 50%. Gas sales in the rest of Asia continued to grow, in line with sector production levels.

The **Healthcare** activity grew by **+ 16.7%**, benefiting from several Home healthcare acquisitions in South Korea, Australia and India, as well as the creation of a dedicated entity for the Healthcare activity in China.

Middle East and Africa

Revenue in the Middle East and Africa amounted to **83 million euros, up by + 5.1%**, reflecting the delay in the recovery in demand in Tunisia and Egypt following the events in early 2011. Demand continued to grow slowly in the Gulf States, improving capacity utilization of existing units.

1.2 Engineering and Construction

Engineering and Construction **third-party sales** stabilized at **158 million euros**, still **- 14.4%** below the level of 3rd quarter 2010. The revenue decline is primarily attributable to a re-allocation of Engineering and Construction resources towards Air Liquide internal projects. Third-party-sales have not only reduced as a percentage of total activity but are also changing in nature: engineering projects now clearly outnumber construction projects. These structural changes in Engineering and Construction will provide better support for the Large Industries and Industrial Merchant business lines, and allow the Group to refocus its teams on high value-added studies with significant technological content, while limiting the third-party construction risk.

Order intake for the first nine months of the year amounted to 706 million euros. Given current commercial activity, the 2011 order intake should be close to the level achieved in 2010.

1.3 Other Activities

<i>in millions of euros</i>	Q3 2010	Q3 2011	Q3 11/10 change	
			<i>as published</i>	<i>comparable*</i>
Welding	99	112	13.6%	+ 13.4%
Diving and Specialty Chemicals	101	104	+ 2.7%	+ 4.8%
Other Activities	200	216	+ 8.0%	+ 8.9%

*comparable: excluding currency impacts

Revenue for Other Activities stood at **216 million euros**, up **+ 8.9%**.

The **Welding** activity continued to recover gradually, posting an increase of **+ 13.4%** thanks to a greater improvement in sales of consumables and exports, and showing signs that equipment sales are beginning to improve.

Growth for the **Specialty Chemicals** activity was limited when compared to a 2010 3rd quarter level that was already high. The markets for vaccines, cosmetics and industry-oriented products remained steady, while **Diving** grew by + 6% as a result of significant US sales over the period.

2. Strategic advances in the 2011 third quarter

2.1 Highlights of the quarter

Development of client outsourcing

The Group signed its **first Large Industries contract in Turkey** with Petkim, the leading petrochemicals company. At the Aliaga site near Izmir, Air Liquide has acquired three air gas production units from Petkim, with a total daily capacity of nearly 400 tons per day of oxygen, and has pledged to invest in a new oxygen production unit with a supplementary daily capacity of 400 tons per day. This new facility will contribute to the development of Air Liquide's Industrial Merchant activity, supplying liquid gas to other industries present in the region. The total investment amounts to more than 60 million euros.

Following the recent footholds gained in Ukraine and Mexico, the new contract in Turkey demonstrates once again the validity of the business model and the value that Air Liquide can bring to its clients. It also illustrates the Group's strategy combining a global presence with pioneering positions.

Expanded Home healthcare expertise

The Group has pursued its acquisition policy in order to widen its offer with **new therapies**. Hence the acquisition of Licher, a German company specializing in homecare treatment for Parkinson's disease and immunodeficiency disorders.

Technology at the service of Group development

Air Liquide's leading role as an industrial gas supplier to the **photovoltaic** sector was further reinforced with the signing of numerous long-term contracts with solar panel manufacturers in the United States, China, India, Vietnam and Morocco.

To maintain its technological advance in the **photovoltaic** market and further anticipate client needs, Air Liquide has set up a **pilot R&D line** for the production of crystalline solar cells. Teams will now be able to test and optimize new materials and processes on a production line adapted to the needs of each client.

Air Liquide will also supply specialty gases and equipment to the first industrial site of Nanomakers, a French specialist in the production of high-quality silicon carbide **nanopowders**, a cutting-edge technology.

New financing sources in Asia

Air Liquide is the first French company to issue Chinese **renminbi-denominated bonds** on the Hong Kong market. The issue, primarily involving Asian investors, was approved by the Chinese Central Bank in order to repatriate the funds to Mainland China. The Group has issued two series of fixed-rate bonds for 300 million euros, with maturities of five and seven

years and respective rates of 3% and 3.95%. Air Liquide has thus diversified its financing sources at favorable market terms in order to pursue development in China.

2.2 Investment cycle

As of September 30, 2011, the **12-month portfolio of opportunities** amounted to **3.9 billion euros**, an increase of 200 million euros since June 30. The entry of several new projects has largely offset the projects that have either been awarded to Air Liquide or its competitors. Few projects have been abandoned or delayed over the last three months. The portfolio includes some major opportunities and new site takeovers. The percentage of projects located in developing economies remains high, at approximately 80%.

Since the beginning of 2011, cumulative **investment decisions** amounted to **1.5 billion euros**, stable over the same period in 2010. This is the result of winning numerous small to medium-scale projects in the absence of any major projects such as Yanbu in Saudi Arabia, awarded in 2010. For the 3rd quarter 2011, investment decisions accounted for 535 million euros and included the investment in Turkey. Other air gas separation projects have been signed for the chemicals sectors in China, in Singapore and Taiwan, and to meet growing demand in the oil exploration sector in Canada. In Industrial Merchant, the decision was made to reinforce the helium distribution network in Qatar in order to adapt to the new capacities that are due to start-up, to continue acquiring certain local distributors in those regions where our presence is lacking, and to create a new specific offer for the offshore oil market.

Industrial and financial **capital expenditure** (before disposals), stood at **1.35 billion euros**, equivalent to the level in the first nine months of 2010 and in line with the ALMA 2015 program.

Six major **units** (investments exceeding 10 million euros) were **inaugurated** over the third quarter, bringing the total to 12 since the beginning of the year. Among these start-ups, three were located in developing economies, namely China and Brazil, and three in advanced economies, including a major hydrogen unit in the Netherlands. A total of 48 start-ups are expected for the 2011-2012 period, a figure that is slightly higher than previously forecast.

3. Profitability and indebtedness

The main financial indicators remain solid.

Group **efficiency gains** amounted to 61 million euros for the quarter, bringing the total for the first nine months of the year to **192 million euros**. This is ahead of schedule in terms of the annual objective of over 200 million euros. In an inflationary environment which is still not stabilized, pricing in Industrial Merchant is for the first time since 2009, positive in all geographic regions.

Cash from operating activities before changes in working capital over the first nine months stood at **1,974 million euros**, an increase over the preceding year. Year to date investments net of divestitures totaled 1,240 million euros.

As of September 30, 2011, Group **net indebtedness** amounted to **5,644 million euros**, impacted by a negative currency impact of close to 145 million euros since June 2011. Excluding currency, the reduction in net debt was in line with the Group's normal seasonality.

4. Outlook

The 3rd Quarter is characterized by solid growth in Gas and Services sales, which is globally in line with performance in the previous quarter.

The investment momentum continues: the portfolio of opportunities remains high, and our investment decisions totaled 1.5 billion euros as of September 30. Air Liquide continues to diversify its positions in its markets and to strengthen its presence worldwide.

In the face of an unsettled economic and financial situation, particularly in Europe with the tension over sovereign debt, the Group can rely on the robustness of its business model and its ability to adapt in pursuit of its long term development.

In this context, and assuming normal economic conditions, Air Liquide is confident in its ability to continue to generate steady growth of net profit in 2011.

Appendices

Currency, natural gas and scope impacts

In addition to the comparison of published figures, financial information is given excluding currency, the impact of natural gas price fluctuations and significant scope effect.

Since gases for industry, healthcare and the environment are rarely exported, the impact of currency fluctuations on revenue and results is limited to the translation effects of the accounting consolidation in euros of the financial statements of subsidiaries located outside the Euro-zone. Fluctuations in natural gas prices are generally passed on to our customers through indexed pricing clauses.

Consolidated 3rd quarter 2011 revenue includes the following elements:

<i>In millions of euros</i>	Revenue	<i>T3 11/10 as published</i>	Currency	Natural gas	Significant cope	<i>T3 11/10 comparable*</i>
Group	3,597	+ 4.9%	- 61	+ 30	- 24	+ 6.6%
Gaz et Services	3,223	+ 5.9%	- 57	+ 30	- 24	+ 7.7%

** on a comparable basis: excluding currency, natural gas and significant scope impacts.*

At Group level,

- The currency impact is – 1.8%, primarily related to a lower US dollar.
- The increase in natural gas prices over the 3rd quarter has an impact of + 0.9%.
- The scope impact is – 0.8%.

For Gas and Services,

- The currency impact is – 1.9%, primarily related to a lower US dollar.
- The increase in natural gas prices over the 3rd quarter has an impact of + 1.0%. Sequentially, natural gas prices have declined slightly on both sides of the Atlantic.
- The scope impact is – 0.9% and reflects the June 2011 sale of a European based subsidiary supplying the equipment manufacturers in the Electronics sector.

Year to date 2011 Revenue

Revenue by activity

In millions of euros	YTD 2010	YTD 2011	YTD 11/10	
			published	comparable*
Gas and Services	8 738	9 579	+9.6%	+ 9.5 %
Industrial Merchant	3 531	3 636	+ 3.0 %	+ 3.2 %
Large Industries	2 922	3 411	+ 16.7 %	+ 15.2 %
Healthcare	1 432	1 536	+ 7.3 %	+ 7.6 %
Electronics	853	996	+ 16.7 %	+ 19.4 %
Engineering and Construction	574	447	- 22.1 %	- 21.9 %
Other activities	633	686	+ 8.4 %	+ 8.9 %
Welding	309	343	+ 11.1 %	+ 10.7 %
Diving and Specialty Chemicals	324	342	+ 5.7 %	+ 7.2 %
Total Group	9 945	10 712	+ 7.7 %	+ 7.7 %

* on a comparable basis: excluding currency, natural gas and significant scope impacts.

Gas and Services revenue by geography

In millions of euros	YTD 2010	YTD 2011	YTD 11/10	
			published	comparable*
Europe	4 557	4 919	+ 7.9 %	+ 6.2 %
Americas	2 055	2 137	+ 4.0 %	+ 10.3 %
Asia-Pacific	1 910	2 296	+ 20.2 %	+16.8 %
Middle East – Africa	216	228	+ 5.3 %	+ 8.9 %
Gas and Services	8 738	9 579	+ 9.6 %	+ 9.5 %

* on a comparable basis: excluding currency, natural gas and significant scope impacts.