



Further investment in China Major contract with Sinopec

press release

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The Large Industries Business Line of the Air Liquide Group

offers **gas and energy solutions** that improve process efficiency and help achieve greater respect for the environment, mainly in the **refining and natural gas, chemicals, metals and energy** markets. 2010 revenues were **€4,019 million**.

Air Liquide and Sinopec (China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation) **have agreed on the supply of gaseous oxygen and nitrogen** to Maoming branch of Sinopec (MPCC) 200,000 Nm³/h **coal-to-hydrogen project** and existing refinery in Maoming, Guangdong province, China.

This refinery expansion project by MPCC is one of the major projects of Sinopec, and will enable MPCC to produce cleaner fuels meeting higher environmental standards. After completion of the project, MPCC will become one of the biggest refineries in China with a capacity exceeding 20 million-ton oil refining per year.

The supply will be based on the investment in a new ASU with a capacity of **3,000 tonnes of oxygen per day** which will be **the largest ASU to be built in China**. The new ASU, expected to be commissioned in the **first half of 2013**, will also produce liquid oxygen, nitrogen and argon **to meet the strong and growing demand in the industrial merchant market in South China**. This very large ASU will be designed and manufactured by Air Liquide Hangzhou, Air Liquide's engineering center in China, using the Group's latest technologies providing both high reliability and energy efficiency.

For the gas supply to MPCC, Air Liquide and Sinopec have entered into a **50/50 joint venture**. Under the terms of the contract, the joint venture will also **take over and operate** MPCC's existing Air Separation Units (ASUs).

The global investment of the joint venture will be around €85 million.

Air Liquide and Sinopec, Asia's largest petroleum and petrochemical group, have had a long-term partnership. In December 2007, Air Liquide set up a 50/50 joint venture company with Sinopec Tianjin Petroleum Chemical Corporation (TPCC) in Dagang, Tianjin, to supply oxygen and nitrogen to TPCC's new 1 million-ton per year ethylene cracker and downstream units. Air Liquide also supplies Sinopec Qingdao Refinery.

Yu Xizhi, General Manager of MPCC, said: ***"MPCC refinery revamping and expansion is a key national project. We have chosen Air Liquide as our partner to benefit from its state-of-the-art technology and excellence in operational management, to ensure a safe, efficient and reliable gas supply. We see a bright future for a win-win partnership with Air Liquide, the world leading industrial gas supplier."***

Air Liquide in China

operates today operates about **60 plants** and employs **4,000 people**, with a presence in the key coastal industrial areas, while expanding into the center, west, south and the northeast.

Air Liquide has also strong **Engineering capabilities** based in Hangzhou and Shanghai.

Air Liquide returned to China in the 1970s to supply air separation units and restarted gas operations in 1990.

Jean-Marc de Royere, Senior Vice-President Asia Pacific and a member of the Air Liquide Executive Committee, said: ***“This is a new step in our relationship with Sinopec and another milestone for Air Liquide in China’s refining industry. We are very pleased to partner with MPCC in this major project and to participate to the dynamic and growing Southern China market. Air Liquide remains committed to the Chinese market in offering comprehensive solutions with leading-edge technologies. Developing Economies are a growth driver of the Air Liquide group.”***



Maoming, Guangdong Province, China

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.