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Brazil: further investment of €70 million

press release

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Air Liquide in Brazil

Air Liquide Brazil is one of the country's largest industrial gas companies, **employing more than 1,050 people in over 44 locations** to serve customers in the **steel, petrochemical, glass, paper, electronics and food industry sectors** as well as the **healthcare market**.

Air Liquide Brazil is positioned to meet the growing needs of the region and its diverse base of customers with products, services and technologies to help industry improve efficiency and productivity.

Air Liquide in the Americas

Air Liquide is present in North, Central and South America as well as in the Caribbean, serving customers in a variety of industries from chemicals, refining and electronics to manufacturing and healthcare.

Brazil is South America's leading economic power, with a sound economy and expanding presence in world markets, with **high growth in energy, manufacturing and healthcare**. Air Liquide has been present in Brazil for **more than 65 years** and continues to **expand its investments in the country**.

Air Liquide Brazil has recently signed two contracts with major regional firms: **Coca-Cola bottler FEMSA and Suzano Papel e Celulose**, investing nearly **US dollars 90 million (€70 million)** to develop the two projects.

Air Liquide and FEMSA have signed a **long term agreement** for the supply of **carbon dioxide, nitrogen and compressed dry air as well as electric power, steam and chilled water** for its new bottling plant in Itabirito City located approximately 400 kilometers north of Rio de Janeiro.

FEMSA is the **largest bottler of Coca-Cola products** in the world and the largest beverage company in Latin America. Air Liquide was already a long term partner of FEMSA, serving its bottling plant in the Brazilian city of Jundiai and in other countries of South America including Argentina, Colombia and Venezuela.

Carbon dioxide produced at Air Liquide's new Itabirito plant will also help **further develop the industrial market in the southern region of Brazil**.

Air Liquide Brazil has also signed a long term agreement to supply **160 tonnes-per-day of gaseous oxygen** to Suzano Papel e Celulose in the city of Imperatriz, in the state of Maranhao in northern Brazil. **Suzano is the market leader for paper in Latin America**.

The Suzano agreement is for a **new Air Separation Unit (ASU)** slated for start up at the end of 2013. The ASU will also produce liquid oxygen, nitrogen and argon for the region's mining, iron and steel industries as well as the healthcare sector. This agreement marks Air Liquide's expansion in northern Brazil.

Michael Graff, Air Liquide Executive Committee Member and Vice President for the Americas, commented: ***"Air Liquide is proud to serve the growing needs of major companies like FEMSA and Suzano, and to help drive sustained economic growth in this rapidly developing region of the world. Developing economies are a growth driver for Air Liquide."***

Use of gases in the bottling industry

Industrial gases such as **purified and liquefied carbon dioxide** are primarily used in the bottling process to provide carbonation in beverages.

Use of gases in the pulp and paper industry

Oxygen is used in the pulp and paper industry to process and whiten pulp in a more efficient and environmentally friendly manner.

Air Liquide is the world leader in gases for industry, health and the environment, and is present in **80 countries with 46,200 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, home healthcare, 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 Corporate Social Responsibility and sustainable development approach. In 2011, the Group's revenues amounted to € **14.5 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.