

Air Liquide invests in a new Research and Technology Center in China

On July 28, 2014, Air Liquide broke ground on its new **Research and Technology Center**, the Shanghai Research & Technology Center (SRTC), located in the industrial park of Xinzhuang, in the Minhang district of Shanghai, China. This new center will ultimately house 200 highly skilled employees – who include researchers, experts in customer applications, and business development teams – to contribute to **the acceleration of the Group's innovation in Asia-Pacific**. The scientific experts of Air Liquide will be working in several **different areas of research**, such as energy efficiency, technologies designed to reduce industrial emissions of CO₂, water treatment, and processes for preserving and freezing food. The center will be operational at the end of 2015.

This new Air Liquide Research and Technology Center bolsters the Group's research capabilities in Japan and South Korea. It will be connected with the innovation teams based in Europe and in North America. It will first focus on **bringing to market innovative solutions** adapted to the **usages of Chinese customers and consumers**. It will leverage the **main innovation ecosystems in China**, building on existing partnerships with Shanghai Jiao Tong University, as well as Zhejiang University and the research institutes affiliated with the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Covering **12,000 square meters**, the center represents an investment of **nearly €25 million**. It will house laboratories as well as large pilot platforms with equipment for designing and testing technologies in industrial-scale conditions for the Group's customers. The building is designed in compliance with **LEED certification** (Leadership in Energy and Environment Design), a global standard in sustainable building that factors in the efficient water management, good use of energy, and the reduction of emissions.

François Darchis, member of the Air Liquide Executive Committee supervising Innovation, commented: ***"This new center illustrates the Group's commitment to pursuing its growth in China and to developing partnerships with its customers, as well as with the research laboratories and universities in Asia. The Shanghai hub thus reinforces its capacity to attract talent in Asia and to seize new growth opportunities through innovation."***

The Group's innovation

- €265 million innovation expenses in 2013
- 321 new patents filed in 2013
- 6,200 employees contribute to innovation around the world, mostly in three entities: Research & Development, advanced Business & Technologies (aB&T), and Engineering and Construction (Global E&C Solutions). They explore new territories, business models, technologies and services, and they support innovation, from the idea to market maturity.

The global R&D network is based on 10 main sites in Europe, Asia, and the United States including the Paris-Saclay Research Center (France), the Frankfurt Research and Technology Center (Germany), the Delaware Research and Technology Center (United States), Air Liquide Laboratories (Japan), Air Liquide Laboratories Korea (South Korea), and the **Shanghai Research and Technology Center (China)**.

Air Liquide in China

operates more than 70 plants and employs 4,000 employees today, with a strong presence in the key coastal industrial areas, and is expanding into the center, south and west. Air Liquide also has strong Engineering and Construction capabilities via its Global E&C Solutions division. Air Liquide resumed the development of its activities in China in the 1970s with the supply of Air Separation Units and restarted gas operations in 1990.

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World leader in gases, technologies and services for Industry and Health, Air Liquide is present in 80 countries with more than 50,000 employees and serves more than 2 million customers and patients. Oxygen, nitrogen and hydrogen have been at the core of the company's activities since its creation in 1902. Air Liquide's ambition is to be the leader in its industry, delivering long-term performance and acting responsibly.

Air Liquide ideas create value over the long term. At the core of the company's development are the commitment and constant inventiveness of its people.

Air Liquide anticipates the challenges of its markets, invests locally and globally, and delivers high-quality solutions to its customers and patients, and the scientific community. The company relies on competitiveness in its operations, targeted investments in growing markets and innovation to deliver profitable growth over the long-term.

Air Liquide's revenues amounted to € 15.2 billion in 2013, and its solutions that protect life and the environment represented around 40% of sales. 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.