

Michael Phelps & Coach Bob Bowman partner with Aqua Sphere, subsidiary of Aqua Lung (Air Liquide group)

Aqua Sphere, swimming equipment manufacturer, has just announced the formation of a long term strategic partnership with the world's most decorated swimmer Michael Phelps, and Hall of Fame Coach, Bob Bowman, to develop a global swim brand.

This partnership will result in the development of innovative products that are accessible to a broader range of swimmers and non-swimmers across the full swimming lifecycle. The line will include a diverse collection of swim products and accessories designed for every level of swimmer with a focus on comfort and performance.

Aqua Sphere will utilize its design, development and manufacturing expertise and leverage the company's international distribution channels and retail partnerships with parent company, Aqua Lung, for a global footprint in more than 90 countries.

The partnership will also strive to help address the global need for water-safety and learn-to-swim initiatives.

Aqua Sphere is the premier swimming equipment manufacturer for fitness and recreational swimming, aquatic exercise and triathlons with a global footprint in more than 90 countries. Aqua Sphere is part of Aqua Lung which is the leading global designer and manufacturer of dive gear and aquatic equipment. Aqua Lung is a subsidiary of the Air Liquide group, world leader in gases, technologies and services for Industry and Health, present in 80 countries with more than 50,000 employees.

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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.