

## Major contract: Air Liquide selected to build, own and operate the world's largest oxygen production unit for Sasol in South Africa

Air Liquide and Sasol, an international integrated energy and chemicals company, have signed a long-term agreement for the supply of large quantities of industrial gases to Sasol's Secunda site (around 140 km East of Johannesburg). Air Liquide will invest around € 200 million for the construction of the largest Air Separation Unit (ASU) ever built, with total capacity of 5,000 tonnes of oxygen per day (equivalent to 5,800 tonnes per day at sea level), a milestone in the history of industrial gas production.

Air Liquide and Sasol have a long partnership history as the Group has already provided several ASUs on this site over the last 40 years. This contract represents an important step forward in this partnership as it is the first time that Sasol will outsource its oxygen needs to a specialist of industrial gas production at its Secunda site. The oxygen provided by Air Liquide will be used by Sasol for the production of synthetic fuels.

Air Liquide will design, build, own and operate this new ASU, bringing Sasol its world class expertise in oxygen supply. The Air Liquide Engineering and Construction teams will bring their state-of-the-art technologies for this very large ASU, thereby providing benchmark efficiencies, reliability and safety while increasing production capacities.

The new ASU expected to be commissioned by December 2017 will also add for Air Liquide a new source of oxygen and argon to supply the growing industrial gas market in South Africa.

During a signing ceremony which took place today in Johannesburg:

**Benoît Potier**, Chairman and CEO of Air Liquide commented: *"Air Liquide is very pleased to strengthen its relationship with its longstanding business partner, Sasol, and to reaffirm its commitment to South Africa. The cutting edge technology which will be implemented on this project confirms our leadership in oxygen production technology, and we are extremely proud to announce the achievement of another major milestone in the history of the Group."*

**David E. Constable**, President and Chief Executive Officer of Sasol Limited, commented: *"Air Liquide is a long-term technology partner of Sasol. The implementation and operation of this new large ASU by Air Liquide brings world-class expertise to our Secunda site and guarantees a long-term reliable and competitive source of oxygen. And as South Africa is the cornerstone of our global operations, the efficiency this project brings to Sasol will contribute to the South African economy and to the country as a whole."*

### **Air Liquide in South Africa**

Air Liquide started its business in South Africa over 60 years ago and today employs more than 800 people. Air Liquide supplies industrial and speciality gases to the steel, automotive & fabrication, food & beverage, mining, petrochemical, pharmaceutical and glass industries. It also supplies medical gases through a network of many state and private hospitals as well as solutions and services to home based patients. Air Liquide production facilities are situated in the three main industrial hubs of South Africa, in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern and Western Cape with 21 national branches strategically located to serve its customers. Air Liquide recently invested in a state of the art speciality gas filling plant in Johannesburg, developed with the latest Group technology, which will ensure that its customers receive high specialty gas mixtures.

Air Liquide has been active in other parts of Africa as well for more than 60 years and is the fastest growing industrial gas company on the African continent. Significant investments over the past decade include large oxygen production units in eMalahleni, plus increased production in Richards Bay, as well as the largest argon production plant in Sub-Saharan Africa and several CO<sub>2</sub> recovery plants.

### **About Sasol**

Sasol is an international integrated energy and chemicals company that leverages the talent and expertise of more than 33,000 people working in 37 countries. Sasol develops and commercialises technologies, and builds and operates world-scale facilities to produce a range of high-value product streams, including liquid fuels, chemicals and low-carbon electricity.

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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 € 15.4 billion in 2014, 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.