

Air Liquide expands its business in Turkey with an acquisition

Air Liquide is accelerating its growth in the Turkish market with the acquisition of Messer Aligaz Sanayi Gazlari, a subsidiary of industrial gas company Messer Group GmbH.

Messer Aligaz provides industrial, medical and specialty gases to a range of industries in Turkey. The company, which has close to **70 employees**, generated a revenue of around **9 million euros** in 2014.

The activities of Messer Aligaz, mainly focused on the **Industrial Merchant** segment, are located in the highly industrialized regions of the Marmara and the Aegean. The company owns and operates an air separation unit (ASU) for the production of liquid oxygen, nitrogen and argon, and 3 cylinder filling centers.

With this acquisition, Air Liquide enters the Marmara region and will now be **present in the three main industrial areas of the country**: Ankara, Istanbul and Izmir. The combination of the two companies will further increase Air Liquide's capacity to create value for its customers.

This acquisition is part of continued investments by Air Liquide in Turkey. Since 2011, the Group has already invested in two production sites in Ankara and Izmir.

Christophe Chalié, Vice President, Eastern Europe of Air Liquide, commented: ***“Turkey is a growing economy, which has significantly invested in many industrial fields. This acquisition will further strengthen our overall presence in this country, allowing Air Liquide to better serve its customers. It also illustrates our commitment to Turkey. We are pleased to welcome the employees of Messer Aligaz.”***

Air Liquide in Turkey

Air Liquide established its presence in Turkey in 2011 by signing a long term agreement with petrochemicals giant Petkim, related to the supply of oxygen, nitrogen and compressed air for the Aliaga site in the Izmir region. The Group further expanded its activities in Turkey by investing in an oxygen and liquid nitrogen production unit and cylinder filling center located in Polatli in the Ankara region.

Among its industrial customers, Air Liquide supplies the Middle East Technical University (METU) with special and ultra pure gases related to the work of its photovoltaic research laboratory (GÜNAM).

Air Liquide offers innovative solutions - industrial gases, equipment and services - in key industrial regions to a wide variety of customers in the Industry and Healthcare sectors.

The Industrial Merchant business line of Air Liquide

The Industrial Merchant business line offers its customers – from multinational corporations to independent craftsmen – tailor-made solutions for their production process, from industrial and specialty gases to application equipment and related services. Depending on the quantity required, gases can be supplied to the customer's site in liquid form using dedicated cryogenic trailers, by means of onsite equipment or in gaseous form in high pressure cylinders.

For 2014, the Industrial Merchant business line generated revenue of **€ 5,083 million**.

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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 more than 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.