

Air Liquide signs a long term contract with major petroleum group in Oman

Air Liquide and Oman Oil Refineries and Petroleum Industries Company (Orpic), Oman's national refining company, recently signed a long term agreement for the supply of nitrogen to the Liwa Plastics Industries Complex (LPIC), a new plastics production complex including the country's first steam cracker Orpic is adding to its existing production facilities, in Sohar industrial port area in Oman. Investing around €20 million to build a state-of-the-art nitrogen production unit with a total capacity of 500 tonnes of nitrogen per day, Air Liquide will strengthen its leadership position in a key industrial area to support the growth of its customer Orpic.

Expected to start operations in the first quarter of 2019, the **new nitrogen plant**, along with the expansion of Air Liquide's **existing pipeline network**, will supply nitrogen for the customer's **plastics production complex** expanding to a capacity of **polyethylene and polypropylene** of 1.4 million tonnes per year. Those plastics components are needed for many applications in derived products from petroleum such as packaging industries as well as other industrial applications.

The nitrogen production unit will be designed and built by Air Liquide's Engineering and Construction teams using cutting edge technologies and bringing its world class expertise. It will be owned and operated by Air Liquide Sohar Industrial Gases Company.

François Jackow, member of the Air Liquide Group's Executive Committee, supervising Africa, Middle East and India, said: ***"We are pleased to strengthen our relationship with a strategic petrochemical player such as Orpic. Air Liquide demonstrates its ability to continue capitalizing on its existing assets, such as its pipeline network located in the most dynamic industrial basin of Sohar. With this new nitrogen supply contract, Air Liquide will support the development of the petrochemical industry in Oman."***

Christiaan van der Wouden, Chief Operating Officer of Orpic, said: ***"Orpic is pleased to expand its collaboration with Air Liquide and to secure the highest competitive, reliable and safe supply of nitrogen to the Liwa plastics Industries Complex (LPIC) project, which is critical to the development of a downstream plastics industry in Oman."***

Air Liquide in Oman

Air Liquide announced its entry into the industrial gases market in Oman in 2006 and now operates two nitrogen production units in Sohar Industrial port area located approximately 200 kilometers north of Muscat.

The Large Industries business line of Air Liquide

offers gas and energy solutions that improve process efficiency and help achieve greater respect for the environment, mainly in the refining and natural gas, chemicals, metals and energy markets. In 2016, revenues were €5,037 million.

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The world leader in gases, technologies and services for Industry and Health, Air Liquide is present in 80 countries with approximately 67,000 employees and serves more than 3 million customers and patients. Oxygen, nitrogen and hydrogen are essential small molecules for life, matter and energy. They embody Air Liquide's scientific territory and have been at the core of the company's activities since its creation in 1902.

Air Liquide's ambition is to lead its industry, deliver long term performance and contribute to sustainability. The company's customer-centric transformation strategy aims at profitable growth over the long term. It relies on operational excellence, selective investments, open innovation and a network organization implemented by the Group worldwide. Through the commitment and inventiveness of its people, Air Liquide leverages energy and environment transition, changes in healthcare and digitization, and delivers greater value to all its stakeholders.

Air Liquide's revenue amounted to €18.1 billion in 2016 and its solutions that protect life and the environment represented more than 40% of sales. Air Liquide is listed on the Euronext Paris stock exchange (compartment A) and belongs to the CAC 40, EURO STOXX 50 and FTSE4Good indexes.