

Air Liquide and Holcim to collaborate on a project to decarbonize cement production in Belgium

Air Liquide and Holcim have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to pursue a project to decarbonize Holcim's new cement production plant under development in Belgium, using Air Liquide proprietary Cryocap™ carbon capture innovative technology. In that regard, Air Liquide and Holcim have co-applied for the European Innovation Fund supporting framework. This partnership is an important step to accelerate the decarbonization of the industry in Belgium.

The new cement production plant announced will be replacing an existing asset. Thanks to Air Liquide's unique carbon capture innovative technology, Holcim will be able to reduce emissions by up to 1.1 million tons per year of CO₂. This partnership is part of GO4Zero, Holcim's investment program that will enable the company to achieve carbon neutrality in Belgium by the end of the decade.

Air Liquide will support this initiative by leveraging its know-how and unique expertise in CO₂ capture technologies. Air Liquide intends to build and operate a unit of its innovative and proprietary Cryocap™ Oxy technology to capture and purify up to 95% of the CO₂ generated from Holcim's production unit in Obourg. The captured CO₂ will then be handled through Antwerp@C¹ CO₂ Export Hub where it will be transported, liquefied and loaded onto CO₂ ships for onward permanent and safe offshore storage.

The implementation of the project will be possible as public funding from European schemes supporting decarbonization becomes available. In this perspective, Air Liquide and Holcim have jointly applied for the European Innovation Fund, one of the world's largest programs for promoting innovative low-carbon technologies.

Pascal Vinet, Senior Vice President and Executive Committee Member of the Air Liquide Group, supervising Europe Industries, said: *«The decarbonization of the industry is at the heart of our ADVANCE strategy. We are committed to accompany our customers through providing a wide range of innovative solutions. As an example, Air Liquide's proprietary Cryocap™ technology is particularly well suited to decarbonize the cement industry. This collaboration with Holcim illustrates our ability to work with our customers to significantly reduce their CO₂ footprint and make the decarbonization of the industry a reality. In line with its sustainable development objectives, which include carbon neutrality by 2050, Air Liquide's ambition is to actively contribute to the emergence of a low-carbon industry.»*

About Air Liquide Benelux

Air Liquide in Benelux comprises subsidiaries active in the production, distribution, and sale of industrial and medical gases, technologies and services of the Air Liquide Group. Founded in Belgium in 1906 and in the Netherlands in 1913, Air Liquide currently operates 22 industrial sites throughout the Benelux. The Group currently employs more than 1,200 people in this region, all activities taken together, and it supplies more than 122,000 customers and patients.

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¹ [Antwerp@C CO2 Export Hub](#) is an open-access infrastructure to transport, liquefy and load CO₂ onto ships in the Antwerp-Bruges port.

A world leader in gases, technologies and services for Industry and Health, Air Liquide is present in 73 countries with approximately 67,100 employees and serves more than 3.9 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.

Taking action today while preparing the future is at the heart of Air Liquide's strategy. With ADVANCE, its strategic plan for 2025, Air Liquide is targeting a global performance, combining financial and extra-financial dimensions. Positioned on new markets, the Group benefits from major assets such as its business model combining resilience and strength, its ability to innovate and its technological expertise. The Group develops solutions contributing to climate and the energy transition—particularly with hydrogen—and takes action to progress in areas of healthcare, digital and high technologies.

Air Liquide's revenue amounted to more than 29.9 billion euros in 2022. Air Liquide is listed on the Euronext Paris stock exchange (compartment A) and belongs to the CAC 40, CAC 40 ESG, EURO STOXX 50 and FTSE4Good indexes.