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Air Liquide acquires Cryogas de Centroamerica S.A. in Panama

press release

Contacts:

Corporate Communications

Corinne Estrade-Bordry
+33 (0)1 40 62 51 31
Garance Bertrand
+33 (0)1 40 62 59 62

Investor Relations

Virginia Jeanson
+33 (0)1 40 62 57 37
Annie Fournier
+33 (0)1 40 62 57 18

Air Liquide Americas

Michael Rosen
+1 713 624 8023

Air Liquide in Latin America

Present in the region for over 70 years, Air Liquide employs more than **1,400** people and works with more than **50,000** customers.

Air Liquide announces the **acquisition of Cryogas de Centroamerica, S.A.** (Cryogas), a leading supplier of medical and industrial gases in the country of **Panama**. Cryogas is based in Panama City and employs more than 80 people in a number of locations throughout the country.

The agreement to purchase Cryogas' business operations and assets, which include its Air Separation Unit, filling, distribution and retail sales activities, marks **Air Liquide's entry into Panama**, further establishing its presence in the region.

Panama is one of the fastest developing countries in Central America and offers good infrastructure and geographic proximity, a stable business environment and strong growth prospects.

Michael J. Graff, President and CEO, American Air Liquide Holdings, Inc. and a member of Air Liquide's Executive Committee, commented: ***"Emerging economies are a growth driver of Air Liquide, and the acquisition of Cryogas de Centroamerica and our entry into Panama will enhance our growth in the region and throughout the Americas. Air Liquide's innovative product offerings as well as demand from critical infrastructure projects such as the Panama Canal expansion should help further drive our business opportunity throughout Latin America."*** Graff continued; ***"We welcome our newest employees to Air Liquide and the opportunity to develop a key presence in Panama."***

Air Liquide is the world leader in gases for industry, health and the environment, and is present in over 75 countries with 42,300 employees. Oxygen, nitrogen, hydrogen and rare gases have been at the core of Air Liquide's activities since its creation in 1902. Using these molecules, Air Liquide continuously reinvents its business, anticipating the needs of current and future markets. The Group innovates to enable progress, to achieve dynamic growth and a consistent performance.

Innovative technologies that curb polluting emissions, lower industry's energy use, recover and reuse natural resources or develop the energies of tomorrow, such as hydrogen, biofuels or photovoltaic energy... Oxygen for hospitals, homecare, fighting nosocomial infections... Air Liquide combines many products and technologies to develop valuable applications and services not only for its customers but also for society.

A partner for the long term, Air Liquide relies on employee commitment, customer trust and shareholder support to pursue its vision of sustainable, competitive growth. The **diversity** of Air Liquide's teams, businesses, markets and geographic presence provides a solid and sustainable base for its development and strengthens its ability to push back its own limits, conquer new territories and build its future.

Air Liquide explores the best that air can offer to preserve life, staying true to its sustainable development approach. In 2009, the Group's revenues amounted to **€12 billion**, of which almost 80% were generated outside France. 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.