



Simona Cristea-Floris, recipient of the 2009 Pierre Faure Prize awarded by the Ecole Polytechnique Foundation

press release

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The Pierre Faure Prize, which has been awarded by the Polytechnique Foundation since 2002, honours a young Polytechnician whose early years in the industry demonstrate **a combination of technical expertise, management skills and international success.**

Simona Cristea-Floris, 35, of dual Romanian and French nationality, is the **2009 winner of the Pierre Faure Prize**, awarded by the Polytechnique Foundation. Born in 1974 in Romania, Simona Cristea-Floris, a Physics graduate, arrived in France in 1997 to further her education at the Ecole Polytechnique.

She joined Air Liquide in 1999 as part of an MBA at the Collège des Ingénieurs, to then be hired as the Marketing Manager for a newly created subsidiary of the Group. She then went on to become Business Developer for gas services within Industrial Gases and Services France.

In 2004, she took up the position of **Project Manager** within **Air Liquide Engineering**, where she managed **construction projects for Air Separation Units (ASU)** from their conception and design to their assembly and commissioning. In this position she **managed teams of 10 to 40 people** depending on the project. She **managed the construction of seven production units in Ukraine, France, Belgium and Germany** while at the same time meeting, and even improving on the safety, performance, time and budget targets.

Awarded at the close of the Enterprise Forum by Thierry Desmarest, President of the Polytechnique Foundation, this prize honours the **managerial skills and competence of this young engineer, X96**, and notably her ability to bring together the expertise and resources required to ensure the success of **complex, technological projects in a multicultural environment.**

Today, **Simona Cristea-Floris** is Director of the HR Recruitment and Development Programs. In this capacity, she is in charge of the nomination process and the career developments of the Group's International Technical Experts.

Air Liquide's policy aims to **promote the recruitment and professional development of women**, and thus strengthen their place and responsibilities within the company. Between 2003 and 2008, the percentage of women hired as executives and engineers rose from 24 to 29% and women represent 32% of employees identified as high potential.

Air Liquide is the world leader in gases for industry, health and the environment, and is present in over **75 countries** with **43,000 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 2008, the Group's revenues amounted to **€13.1 billion**, of which almost 80% were earned 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.