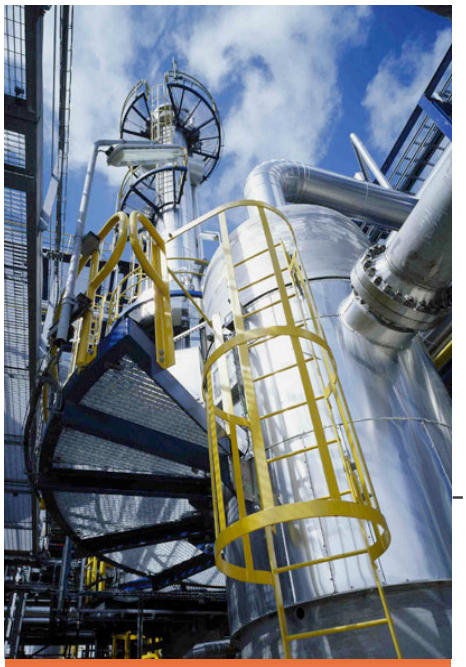


AIR LIQUIDE

Paris, 15 January 2008

SOXAL develops key hydrogen business in Singapore

press release

Contacts:

Corporate Communication
Anne Lechevranton
+33 (0)1 40 62 50 93
Corinne Estrade-Bordry
+ 33 (0)1 40 62 51 31

Investor Relations
Virginia Jeanson
+33 (0)1 40 62 57 37
Aude Rodriguez
+33 (0)1 40 62 57 18

Soxal
Ivan Cheong
+ 65 64 96 59 05

SOXAL

Air Liquide, operating in Singapore since 1917 through Far East Oxygen, an entity which was integrated into **SOXAL** *(Singapore Oxygen Air Liquide)* in 1975, has made significant investments in Singapore, considering it to be a key market through which to capitalize on South-East Asia's dynamic growth.

SOXAL, the **leader in the Singapore market,** employing **600 people** recognized for their high levels of expertise, supplies gas and services to numerous semiconductor manufacturing facilities as well as to the petrochemical facilities on Jurong Island, an international refining platform which is expanding regularly.

SOXAL combines good current economic performance with strong prospects for future growth.

SOXAL became a 100% affiliate of Air Liquide in April 2007. It is the largest and leading industrial gas company in South-east Asia.

Singapore is the world third-largest center of oil refining and, in the frame of Kyoto Protocol, has committed itself to contributing to the environment.

Singapore Oxygen Air Liquide Pte Ltd (SOXAL), a fully owned subsidiary of Air Liquide, **has signed a long term contract to supply hydrogen to Neste Oil's Renewable Diesel plant in Singapore**. In order to meet Neste Oil's industrial gas requirements, **SOXAL will invest approximately €125 million** to build, own and operate **a new world-scale Steam Methane Reformer (SMR) on Jurong Island.** This unit is expected to start up in 2010 and will produce about 100,000 Nm3 per hour of hydrogen.

Besides supporting Neste Oil's new facility, SOXAL's SMR will also serve **existing and future petrochemical customers located on Jurong Island and Tuas through an extensively integrated Hydrogen Pipeline Network**. This will add reliability to Air Liquide existing and new customers by connecting them to the **largest hydrogen pipeline network in Singapore.**

This new hydrogen unit represents **the SOXAL's biggest and the fifth significant investment into the gas infrastructure of Jurong Island**, having already invested three Air Separation Units at Pulau Ayer Merbau and Pulau Ayer Chawan, one HyCO unit at Sakra, and another new 1,200 tonnes per day Air Separation Unit at Pulau Ayer Merbau currently under construction.

With respect to hydrogen, over the past three years, **Air Liquide has increased its worldwide production capacity of its hydrogen systems by more than 50 percent**.

Jean-Pierre Duprieu, Senior Vice-President, Asia-Pacific region, member of the Executive Committee of the Air Liquide Group, said: ***"These investments represent SOXAL's commitment to our petrochemical customers in terms of reliability and system capability, today and for the future. As a worldwide leader in the hydrogen market, we are actively applying our best technologies and expertise to help our refinery and chemical customers around the world improve their process efficiencies and meet their environmental responsibilities.***

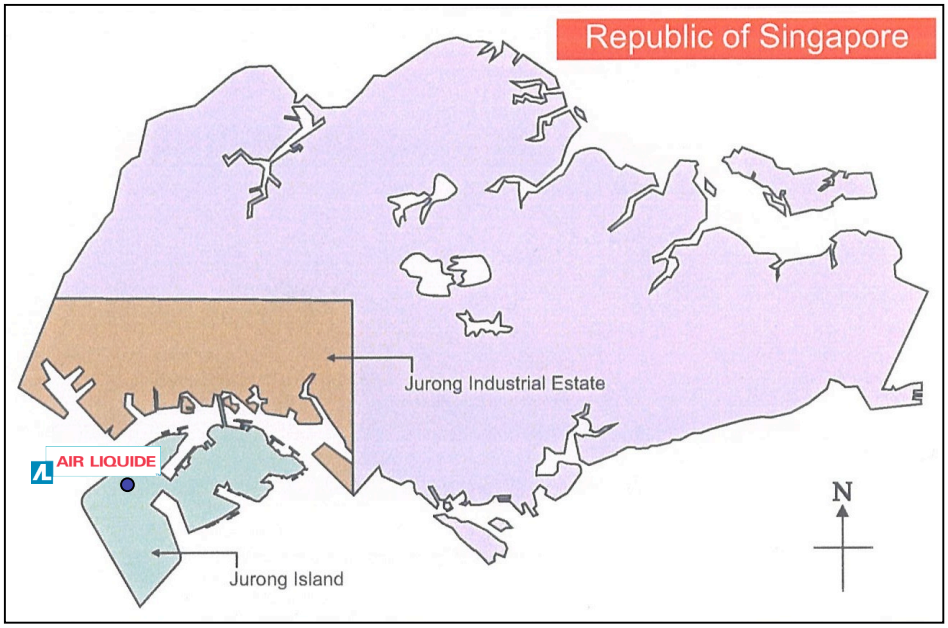
Less than one year after the completion of the full acquisition of SOXAL by Air Liquide, this success enables us to significantly reinforce our positions in South-East Asia and capitalize on growth in economies clustered around the industrial hub of Singapore."

SOXAL 星氧

Air Liquide and Hydrogen production

Air Liquide operates **around 200 hydrogen production units around the world**, of which 50 are large units. Its pipeline networks serve large customers in several industrial basins: Gulf Coast and the lower Mississippi River in the U.S., Antwerp/Rotterdam (Benelux), Rhein/Ruhr (Germany), Korea, Thailand, Singapore and China.

Air Liquide is **one of the world's principal producers of hydrogen**, with a turnover of **830 million euros** in 2006. This figure should reach **1 billion euros in 2008.**



Hydrogen market

Hydrogen is today **mainly used to reduce the sulfur content in automotive fuels and thus reduce polluting emissions.** Hydrogen is also necessary to process **heavy crude oil into useable fuels**. The demand for hydrogen is driven by the need for refiners to expand production and comply with environmental regulations being progressively introduced around the world. It is also widely use by the **chemical industry**.

*With nearly **40,000 employees** in **72 countries**, Air Liquide is a **world leader** in industrial and medical gases and related services. The Group offers **innovative solutions** based on constantly enhanced **technologies** and produces **air gases (oxygen, nitrogen, argon, rare gases…) and many other gases including hydrogen.** The Group contributes to the manufacturing of **many everyday products**: bubbles in sparkling beverages, protective atmosphere for packed foods, oxygen for hospitals and homecare patients, ultra-pure gases for the semiconductor industry, hydrogen to desulfurize fuels...*

*Air Liquide is committed to **sustainable development** and helps to **protect life**. Founded in 1902, Air Liquide has successfully developed a long-term relationship with its shareholders built on **trust** and **transparency** and guided by the principles of **corporate governance**. Since the publication of its first consolidated financial statements in 1971, Air Liquide has posted **strong and steady earnings growth**. Sales in 2006 totaled **10,949 million euros**, with sales outside France accounting for almost 80%. Air Liquide is listed on the Paris stock exchange and is a component of the CAC 40 and Eurostoxx 50 indices (ISIN code FR 0000120073).*