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## National jobs for the disabled week: Air Liquide is actively involved

*press release*

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### Diversity at Air Liquide

Air Liquide offers **diversity** in every combination, firmly convinced that diversity is a **source of dynamism and creativity**: its teams are a mixture of different nationalities, skills, career paths, etc. As part of its approach to sustainable development, the Group has set itself three goals:

- to continue to make its teams and careers more international,
- to promote equality and encourage employees to be open to the world around them,
- to strive for a greater sharing of responsibilities between men and women.

Air Liquide is taking part in the 11<sup>th</sup> jobs for the disabled week in France, from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2007, and in partnership with ADAPT (Association for the social and professional integration of disabled people), is getting actively involved in order to bring together disabled people with the Group's human resources managers in France.

Air Liquide is also taking part in the event "A day, a profession in action" (**Un jour, un métier en action**), an initiative launched by the AGEFIPH (an Association which works to open up employment to the disabled). For one day, several Air Liquide sites in France will welcome a disabled job seeker with the aim of introducing him or her to a branch of industry, to a profession and by doing so promote his/her integration into the world of business.

Air Liquide is also supporting the **Handimangement** program – which aims to make students at the "grandes écoles" in France more aware of the professional integration of handicapped people – by taking part in information days which the schools of Centrale Lyon and Supelec Rennes organize as part of their curriculum.

**Diversity** features strongly throughout the Group's human resources policy; a **2007-2009 company agreement promoting integration for the disabled** has been signed in France.

**Augustin de Roubin**, Vice-President Human Resources and Member of the Executive Committee of the Group, commented: **"To successfully recruit a disabled person and keep them in employment requires the manager's total support and a greater understanding of disability. This is why the Air Liquide Group intends to help change how disability is seen by stepping up the concrete action it is taking as part of its approach to sustainable development"**.

*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).*