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## China: Air Liquide starts its operations in Chengdu (Sichuan) for TFT-LCD manufacturers

*press release*

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### Air Liquide Electronics

With 3,000 employees and €1,044 million revenue in 2008, Air Liquide Electronics has activities in ultra-pure and specialty gases, new molecules, related equipment and customized services. The Electronics World Business Line Head Office is based in Asia to enhance its proximity to the semiconductor, TFT-LCD and PV markets.

China is becoming an important geography for the Thin Film transistor - Liquid Crystal Display (TFT-LCD) industry. Driven by growing demand, TFT-LCD's manufacturing capacity in China has been experiencing a continued growth rate ranging between **20 to 30% per year**. This trend is expected to continue during the coming years as result of coming upgrade cycles in display devices. **Beijing Oriental Electronics Technology Group (BOE) and Tianma Microelectronics Co. Ltd** rank among the world top TFT-LCD manufacturers.

**Air Liquide and BOE recently signed a long-term supply agreement** for BOE's new 4.5-generation TFT-LCD fab in **Chengdu high-tech industrial park**, in the capital city of **Sichuan Province**. Under the terms of the agreement, **Air Liquide will supply its global offer** covering carrier gases (nitrogen, oxygen, hydrogen and argon), specialty gases, Total Gas Management and all equipment and installations related to gas supply. The decision made by BOE to choose Air Liquide's global solution is the result of a long term partnership between both companies.

**Tianma Microelectronics awarded Air Liquide** the supply of **all the carrier gases** to its new 4.5-generation TFT-LCD project in Chengdu. This is the first time Air Liquide and Tianma enter into a partnership.

Following the signature of these two new contracts, **Air Liquide will invest €25 million in an Air Separation Unit (ASU) to supply BOE, Tianma** and the dynamic market of the Chengdu region.

**Francisco Martins**, Vice-President World Business Line Electronics of the Air Liquide Group, declared: ***"We are proud to serve the leading players of TFT-LCD in China and therefore reinforcing our position as market leader. This investment will allow our first foothold in Chengdu, one of the most important markets in the South West of China and, at the same time, illustrates Air Liquide's commitment to contribute to the economic reconstruction of the Sichuan earthquake area. In the current economic context, High Tech and Emerging economies such as China are long-term growth drivers for the Group."***

**Wang Jiaheng**, Vice-President of BOE Group, added: ***"After fruitful discussion, we have decided to choose Air Liquide as our gas material partner of BOE Chengdu. Air Liquide has understood our needs and shown competitiveness. We look forward to good cooperation with Air Liquide and benefit from its worldwide capabilities."***

## Air Liquide in China

Air Liquide started to be present in China in early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and returned in the seventies by supplying air separation plants. In 1990, Air Liquide started to set up gas operations and invest in production facilities in China. Currently, Air Liquide employs **more than 2,500 people** and has **more than 30 entities**. Air Liquide operations are located in **many key industrial areas of China**: Beijing / Tianjin / Liaoning / Shandong in the north, Shanghai / Jiangsu / Zhejiang in the east, and expanding to Sichuan/Hubei and Guangdong in the west and south.

In 2008, Air Liquide China gave a €0.4 million donation for the victims of the Sichuan earthquake.

### **Beijing Oriental Electronics Technology Group (BOE)**

*Established in 1993, has been listed in Shenzhen Stock exchange since 1997. Since then, it has shifted its business from the traditional consumer electronics market to the communications, computer and digital product fields. Currently, BOE is the largest domestic and the world's No. 9 largest TFT-LCD manufacturer, with a total revenue exceeding 10 billion Yuan in 2007. In 2007, BOE started to build a 4.5-generation TFT-LCD fab in Chengdu with a total investment of 3 billion Yuan.*

### **Tianma Microelectronics Co. Ltd (Tianma)**

*Founded in 1983 in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province of China, is primarily engaged in the manufacture and sale of liquide crystal displays (LCD) and liquid crystal modules (LCM). The company has established subsidiaries in Shanghai as well as in the United States, South Korea and Europe respectively. In July 2008, Tianma announced its new investment in Chengdu. It's another 4.5-generation TFT-LCD fab with a total investment of 3 billion Yuan.*

**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.

Air Liquide combines many products and technologies to develop valuable applications and services not only for its customers but also for society. **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...

**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.