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## Major expansion of hydrogen system in Texas

*press release*

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### 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, Rhein/Ruhr, Korea, Thailand, Singapore and China.

### Hydrogen market

Hydrogen is today **mainly used to reduce the sulfur content in automotive fuels and thus in 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.

**Air Liquide announces a major investment program of €140 million to expand the production, storage and pipeline delivery capacity of its Gulf Coast hydrogen system.** These new facilities will serve to meet new contract demand and grow Air Liquide's hydrogen business in this important refining market, where nine million barrels of crude oil are refined daily.

This investment will allow Air Liquide to serve new clients by increasing its hydrogen production capacity by 100,000 Nm<sup>3</sup>/hour, to reach a **total capacity of more than 380,000 Nm<sup>3</sup>/hour.** As part of this expansion, Air Liquide will add a large hydrogen storage cavern on the Gulf Coast to enhance its flexibility in meeting increasing customer demand for hydrogen. As well, the pipeline network that presently covers 240 miles along the Gulf Coast will be extended 90 miles from Bayport to southeast Texas.

Over the past three years, **Air Liquide has increased the worldwide production capacity of its hydrogen systems by 50 percent.** Air Liquide presently operates 12 hydrogen production units in the U.S.

**Pierre Dufour, Air Liquide Group Executive Vice President, said: "In the U.S., where our sales of hydrogen have more than doubled since 2000, we are expanding our hydrogen system with the most efficient and reliable production, storage and delivery infrastructure possible for this crucial molecule. As a worldwide leader in the hydrogen market, we are actively applying our best technologies and expertise to help our world-class refinery and petrochemical customers around the world improve their process efficiencies and meet their environmental responsibilities."**

*With more than 38,000 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,*

*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).*