

Paris, 5 June 2007



Inauguration of the new Research and Technology Center in the USA

Press release

Contacts:

Corporate Communications

Dominique Maire

+33 (0)1 40 62 53 56

Corinne Estrade-Bordry

+ 33 (0)1 40 62 51 31

North America

Diane Labelle

+1 713 624 80 82

Michael Rosen

+ 1 713 624 80 23

Investor Relations

Virginia Jeanson

+33 (0)1 40 62 57 37

Aude Rodriguez

+33 (0)1 40 62 57 18

Air Liquide Chairman and CEO Benoît Potier inaugurated the **Group's new US Research and Technology Center** in Newark, Delaware, this week, in the presence of **Ruth-Ann Minner, Governor of Delaware**, and numerous VIPs. The Center will be called the "*Delaware Research and Technology Center*" (*DRTC*).

Located on a **22-hectare site** south of Philadelphia, this **center now brings together** in a single location the researchers of the previous Chicago Research Center (opened in 1983), the experts of MEDAL (a subsidiary which produces membranes for gas separation and purification), the engineers of the Advanced Technologies Division in the USA (ALATUS) and the teams of the SEPPIC subsidiary (specialty chemicals). There are thus **over 80 researchers of 14 different nationalities** and with very diverse training backgrounds working on this new campus.

Air Liquide has invested **35 million US dollars** in the construction of this center, to supplement the Group's innovation teams in Europe and Asia. The DRTC will devote itself to **12 areas of research**: from gas production to applications in electronics, healthcare and food processing, and in particular **clean energy**.

With more than 20% of the Group's 2006 revenues generated in North America, a very innovation-oriented market, the DRTC aims to **double Air Liquide's research effort** in the United States and should eventually have **150 staff members**. With **one-third of global R&D spending**, North America remains **one of the leaders in technology**. This new center will therefore be able to develop stronger partnerships with the Group's **major customers**, and establish **academic cooperation agreements** with the best **American laboratories and universities**. Finally, it will be supported by a multicultural, international pool of scientific and academic talent.

Benoît Potier, Air Liquide Chairman and CEO, stated: "***In 2006, Air Liquide devoted more than 200 million euros to innovation, research and technology, and files on average one patent per day each year.***

With the establishment of the Delaware Research and Technology Center in North America, we have today in total, in our main geographic zones, nearly 3,000 experts dedicated to three major themes: sustainable development, healthcare and technology.

Research, Advanced Technologies and Engineering

involve nearly **3,000 employees**, of **25 different nationalities**, spread over **20 centers** in Europe, North America and Japan.

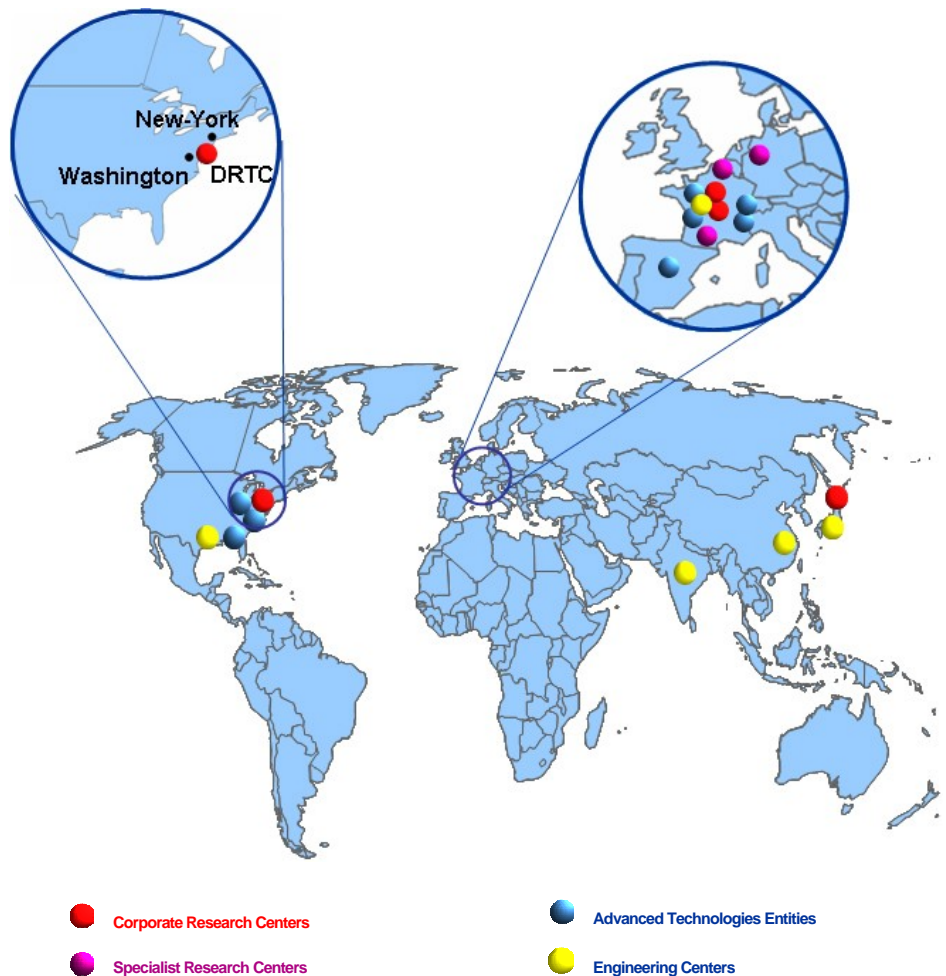
Pure **research** activity is organised as a network to develop high-level expertise, and each year files half of the Group's patents. It is supported by 120 industrial partnerships and more than a hundred cooperation programmes with universities and research centers.

Advanced Technologies develop the Group's skills and expertise in fields with a high technological content: space, cryogenics, aeronautics, gas engineering and hydrogen energy.

Engineering designs, manufactures and constructs gas production units for the Group and external customers.

This center will enable us to profit from stronger synergies between our experts, our customers and the academic world. It will also encourage mobility of the Group's men and women, as well as ideas.

This new initiative supports the Group's ambitions. It strengthens its leadership in the field of innovation, responds to the needs of customers and will accelerate growth for the Group."



*With nearly **37,000 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).*