



## First anesthesia with LENOXe™ in France, at the Nîmes Teaching Hospital

Press release

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### Air Liquide's Healthcare business

The Healthcare "World Business Line" of Air Liquide serves over 5,000 hospitals and 300,000 patients throughout the world, supplying gases, hygiene products and equipment to hospital customers, and providing homecare services to patients in the community.

In 2007, the Group's Healthcare sales were €1.592 billion, 63% of which originated outside France, with 7,200 employees.

### Medical Gases

At hospitals, medical gases are used primarily in emergency units, operating rooms and intensive care, where they are used to anesthetize, treat acute respiratory disorders, relieve pain, diagnose, ....

These gases include oxygen, nitrous oxide, Kinox™, Kalinox™, and now LENOXe™.

They consist of three components: a gas (the active principle), special packaging, and the dispensing system for administration.

They are subject to strict regulations (in Europe, marketing authorizations or CE labeling).

LENOXe™, the first xenon-based anesthetic to be marketed in Europe, was used for the first time in France on December 18, 2007 at the Nîmes University Hospital. Since that date, several other anesthesia procedures using xenon have been successfully performed at the hospital.

LENOXe™, an Air Liquide innovation, is composed of xenon, a gas present in very small quantities in the air, which offers remarkable anesthetic properties. LENOXe™ is administered in a mixture containing oxygen, thanks to the FELIX DUAL™ anesthesia workstation, another Air Liquide innovation. LENOXe™ acts on central cerebral receptors. As an inert gas, xenon is not metabolized; it is flushed, unchanged, through the lungs.

As xenon is a normal component of air, it can be discharged into the atmosphere without any risk. Its quick elimination from the body once anesthesia is complete facilitates the patient's post-operative recovery.

As Professor Jacques Ripart, Head of Anesthesia & Pain treatment at the Nîmes Teaching Hospital explains, "**LENOXe™ is a true innovation in the field of anesthesia, particularly during long procedures. Xenon's unique pharmacological properties really offer us new perspectives. I have observed how this product leads to a very rapid recovery, even after a several-hour anesthesia. In addition, xenon's hemodynamic effects on patients are particularly limited. This molecule is now available for normal use and represents an added benefit to the safety and comfort of patients.**"

Jean-Marc de Royere, Senior Vice-President of Air Liquide in charge of Healthcare commented, "**Within the March 2007 European marketing authorization, our teams have been working with physicians to introduce Xenon in France and Germany, soon to be followed by other European countries. As our research people explore the medical potential of xenon and other medical gases, particularly for anesthesia, intensive care and pain relief, new fields are opening for Air Liquide in healthcare.**"

*With more than 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 2007 totaled 11,801 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).*