



information

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Press Release

Air Liquide - the technology partner for France's first industrial CO₂ capture project

International experts now herald **CO₂ capture and geological storage** as promising ways for preserving the environment and contributing to combating climate change. These processes consist of capturing industrial emissions of CO₂ and burying them in the deep layers of the Earth, thereby reproducing what nature has been doing for millions of years in natural CO₂ pools.

Air Liquide has just entered into a technology partnership with Total Group to supply new oxycombustion technologies for the first pilot CO₂ capture and storage installation in France in the Lacq industrial basin in South-Western France.

New combustion technologies are used to replace the air (roughly consisting of 78% nitrogen and 21% oxygen) by **oxygen**. **Using oxygen** for fossil fuel-based energy production technologies, leads to high concentrations of CO₂ in the flue gases, making it economically viable to capture, transport and store CO₂ in the sub-soil. Air Liquide has developed **highly specialised expertise** in this field, with over **800 combustion patents to its credit**.

Under the agreement, Total will inject up to 150,000 tonnes of CO₂ over two years into a former natural gas pool near Lacq at a depth of 4,500 metres. The first CO₂ injections will be made in November 2008.

Air Liquide is already involved in several other CO₂ storage research projects, notably in Poland, the United States, and Canada.

François Darchis, Air Liquide Executive Committee member, stated: **"Electricity production is currently responsible for about 30% of the world's CO₂ emissions. Reducing gas emissions with capture and storage processes requires the introduction of new technologies such as oxycombustion. This first pilot project in France is further illustration of our capacity to develop innovative technologies and offer more environmentally-friendly industrial solutions. Today Air Liquide spends over 50% of its R&D budget on sustainable development projects."**

Present 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**. These solutions, which are consistent with Air Liquide's commitment to **sustainable development**, help to protect life and enable our customers to manufacture many indispensable everyday products. Founded in 1902, Air Liquide has more than 36,000 employees. The Group 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).

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