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Air Liquide joins H₂USA

press release

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Air Liquide Industrial U.S. LP (“Air Liquide”) announced today that it has joined H₂USA, a public-private partnership launched by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) focusing on advancing hydrogen infrastructure to support the development of new transportation options for U.S. consumers.

Air Liquide is a leading global supplier of hydrogen for a range of applications and industries. Air Liquide owns and operates 200 hydrogen production sites and approximately 1,242 miles of hydrogen pipeline, the world’s largest hydrogen distribution network. As a member of H₂USA, Air Liquide will contribute its knowledge and expertise in the field of hydrogen energy, including hydrogen production, distribution and storage technologies and hydrogen refueling infrastructure development.

Mark Lostak, president of Air Liquide Industrial U.S. LP., commented: “*Air Liquide is already playing a leadership role in public-private research and innovation initiatives geared to advance the commercial deployment of hydrogen and fuel cells for clean transport applications, and we are proud to build on these activities as a member of H₂USA. Air Liquide and H₂USA share a commitment to developing innovative, affordable and environmentally sustainable solutions to enable the widespread adoption of hydrogen energy in the United States.*”

Hydrogen energy is a key growth market for Air Liquide, and a key focus area for its sustainable development and innovation programs.

In North America, Air Liquide has significantly expanded its hydrogen energy offer in recent years alongside rising demand for alternative energies. Air Liquide supplies a growing number of customers in the materials handling industry with bulk hydrogen and fueling infrastructure to support fleets of forklifts and pallet jacks powered by hydrogen fuel cells, and supports a number of hydrogen fuel cell buses in North America. Since 2010, Air Liquide has operated the largest fleet of hydrogen-powered buses in the world in Whistler, Canada.

In June 2013, Air Liquide was awarded a \$1.5 million grant from the California Energy Commission (CEC) to build a hydrogen fueling station in Anaheim, Calif. The award was granted by the CEC through its Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program as part of the state’s initiative to expand the fueling infrastructure for consumer hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. The station in Anaheim, slated to open to the public in the fourth quarter of 2014, will be Air Liquide’s first owned and operated hydrogen fueling station for consumer vehicles in the U.S.

Air Liquide and Hydrogen Energy

Air Liquide masters the entire hydrogen energy chain. Air Liquide is a key player of the new hydrogen-energy economy with more than:

- More than 40 years of unique know-how on the entire industrial hydrogen value chain, from production and distribution to retail.
- 20 years of R&D efforts in hydrogen energy applications
- More than 10 years of experience in development and sales of PEM fuel cells, the key interface between the gas molecule and the electrical kW.

Hydrogen, a clean energy carrier

A fuel cell produces electricity from hydrogen at the point of use, with no greenhouse gas or particle emissions, and no noise. Hydrogen can be produced from a various range of energy sources.

With its Blue Hydrogen initiative, Air Liquide is moving towards a gradual decarbonization of its hydrogen production dedicated to energy applications. By 2020, Air Liquide is committed to producing at least 50% of the hydrogen necessary for these applications through carbon-free processes by combining:

- renewable energy sources, water electrolysis and biogas reforming; and,
- carbon capture technologies during the hydrogen production processes based on natural gas.

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Air Liquide in the U.S.

Air Liquide companies in the U.S. employ more than **5,000** employees in over **200 locations**, and offer industrial gases, equipment and related services to customers in the large industries, industrial merchant, electronics and healthcare markets.

***Air Liquide is the world leader in gases for industry, health and the environment**, and is present in **80 countries** with **close to 50,000 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 for the good of society while delivering profitable growth and consistent performance.*

***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, home healthcare, fighting nosocomial infections... Air Liquide combines many products and technologies to develop valuable applications and services not only for its customers but also for society.*

***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 Corporate Social Responsibility and sustainable development approach**. In 2012, the Group's revenues amounted to **€ 15.3 billion** of which 82% were generated 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.*