

Air Liquide celebrates start up of new plant in Cleburne, Texas

press release

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Air Liquide in the U.S.

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

Industrial Merchant activities of Air Liquide

The Industrial Merchant business line manages the production and distribution of **gases in bulk and cylinders**, and provides customers with the applications and services required for their implementation. Its customers range from tradesmen to major businesses and use industrial gases in 5 key sectors: food and pharmaceuticals, automobile and manufacturing, crafts and distribution, materials and energy, and technology and research. In 2012, the Industrial Merchant business line generated revenue of **€5,193 million**.

Air Liquide Industrial U.S. LP (“Air Liquide”) held a ribbon cutting ceremony on April 5, 2013 to celebrate its new nitrogen liquefier at its facility in Cleburne, Texas.

The new liquefier, the second of two now in operation at the Cleburne facility, will enable Air Liquide to **increase its supply of liquid nitrogen to customers in a range of industries**, including food & beverage, manufacturing, glass, electronics, oil and gas, and chemicals.

To support the increased production capacity, Air Liquide will **increase its workforce in Cleburne by as many as 21 permanent employees over the next two years**. Nearly 2,000 of Air Liquide’s 5,000 U.S. employees work in Texas, and in 2012 alone, Air Liquide made five major investments in its Texas operations.

In his remarks given at the event, American Air Liquide Holdings, Inc. **Chairman & CEO Michael Graff** stated; *“Today we celebrate the opening of our expanded production capabilities here in Cleburne to meet the growing needs of our customers in the region. Our expansion is proof that Air Liquide continues to see great potential in the growth of industry throughout the U.S, and we continue to seek and develop opportunities in communities such as those in Cleburne and Johnson County.”*

Among those attending the ceremony were **U.S. Congressman Roger Williams** from the 25th District of Texas; **Jerry Cash, Director of Economic Development** for the City of Cleburne; and, **Cathy Marchel, President of the Cleburne Chamber of Commerce**.

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 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.

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