

Houston, Texas – November 28, 2012

Air Liquide receives food safety certification for liquid nitrogen and carbon dioxide facilities

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 **industrial gases in bulk systems 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. For 2011, the Industrial Merchant business line generated revenue of **€4,892 million**.

In its continued commitment to maintain the highest standards of safety and quality, **Air Liquide Industrial U.S. LP** (“Air Liquide”) announced today that **thirteen of its facilities in the U.S.** – seven carbon dioxide liquefaction facilities and six liquid nitrogen plants – have received the **Food Safety System Certification 22000 (“FSSC 22000”)**, an internationally-recognized standard for food safety systems.

Air Liquide supplies carbon dioxide and nitrogen to customers in the food and beverage industry for a wide range of applications. Both products are used in a variety of **packaging, preservation, temperature control and food processing applications**. Additionally, Air Liquide supplies **beverage-grade carbon dioxide**, a key ingredient of carbonated beverages.

“Air Liquide is dedicated to growing and adapting to the needs of our customers,” said Mark Lostak, president of Air Liquide Industrial U.S. LP. “Attaining the FSSC 22000 certification for our facilities nationwide further demonstrates our ongoing commitment to safety and continuous improvement in the manufacturing and distribution of our products that our customers have come to expect.

Air Liquide expects to have all of its liquid nitrogen plants and carbon dioxide liquefaction facilities that supply the U.S. food and beverage industry FSSC 22000 certified by the end of 2013.

FSSC 22000 is recognized as the international standard for food safety systems by the Global Food Safety Initiative (“GFSI”), a business-driven initiative for the continuous improvement of food safety management systems to ensure **confidence in the delivery of safe food to consumers worldwide**. FSSC 22000 is governed by a Board of Stakeholders comprised of representatives of trade and industry, authorities, and other parties in the food supply chain.

In October 2012, Air Liquide received the FSSC 22000 for carbon dioxide liquefaction facilities located in: Delaware City, Del.; Martinez, Calif.; Wilmington, Calif.; Sioux City, Iowa; Wood River, Ill.; Washington, Ind.; and, Donaldsonville, La. In November 2012, the company’s nitrogen production plants in the following locations received the certification: Orlando, Fla.; Mapleton, Ill.; Cleburne, Texas; Chattanooga, Tenn.; Tucson, Ariz.; and, Oklahoma City, Okla.

***Air Liquide is the world leader in gases for industry, health and the environment, and is present in 80 countries with 46,200 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 to enable progress, to achieve dynamic growth and a 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 2011, the Group's revenues amounted to **€14.5 billion**, of which more than 80% 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 index.*