

Air Liquide celebrates new Air Separation Unit in Geismar, Louisiana

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Photo

Note to editors: A high-resolution photo is available upon request. To request a photo, please call 713-624-8594.

Air Liquide in the U.S.

Air Liquide companies in the U.S. employ about **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 Large Industries U.S. LP (“Air Liquide”) held a ribbon cutting ceremony on June 14, 2012 to celebrate its new Air Separation Unit at its facility in Geismar, La., south of Baton Rouge.

The new ASU produces high purity oxygen, nitrogen and argon for customers along Air Liquide’s Mississippi River Pipeline System and for a range of industries, including oil refining, metals, chemicals, healthcare and many others. The new production unit has increased the site’s production capacity, enabling Air Liquide to expand its customer base while **further supporting industrial growth and economic development in Louisiana.**

“Today is a special day for Air Liquide because we’re commemorating the start up of our newest investment in Geismar, our third Air Separation Unit at this facility,” said **Roger Perreault**, president of Air Liquide Large Industries U.S. LP as he spoke to an audience of employees, customers and local dignitaries. **“The State of Louisiana is very important to Air Liquide. Since 2010, we have invested more than \$125 million in southeast Louisiana alone, and the region continues to promote a robust business climate and opportunity for growth into the future.”**

Joining Air Liquide in the ceremony were representatives from the offices of U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu and U.S. Senator David Vitter; a representative of the Louisiana Economic Development office; Ascension Parish President Tommy Martinez; Richard Webre, director of the Ascension Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness; representatives of the Baton Rouge Area Chamber of Commerce; representatives of the Ascension Parish Economic Development Corporation; the Honorable Jean Claude Brunet of the French Consulate in New Orleans; and, many Air Liquide customers. Senator David Vitter sent his greetings and congratulations to Air Liquide with a video message.

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 indexes.*