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Air Liquide to build new plant in North Dakota

press release

Contacts :

U.S. Corporate Communications

Mike Rosen
+1 713 624 8023

George Smalley
+1 713 624 8021

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's Industrial Merchant business is present throughout the U.S. providing gases in bulk tankers or in cylinders to diverse sectors in automotive, manufacturing, food, pharmaceuticals, materials, energy, technology, research and to distributors.

Industrial gases optimize production processes, enhance safety and improve product quality.

Air Liquide Industrial U.S. LP today announced that it will build a **new Air Separation Unit (ASU)** to supply nitrogen to industrial customers, particularly those in the oil and gas sector, in **northwest North Dakota**.

The new ASU is slated to be operational by the end of 2012 and will be strategically located in the **Bakken reserves**.

“We are positioning ourselves to better serve existing customers and to capture new business opportunities in North Dakota, especially in the Bakken oil reserves,” said **Mark Lostak**, President, Air Liquide Industrial U.S. LP. ***“The potential throughout this region is significant, and we are prepared to meet the growing demand for nitrogen to develop these important domestic energy resources.”***

In North America, Air Liquide supplies nitrogen and carbon dioxide to oil and gas producers to support drilling operations and increase oil and/or natural gas recovery.

Air Liquide is the world leader in gases for industry, health and the environment, and is present in 80 countries with 43,600 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, homecare, 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 sustainable development approach. In 2010, the Group's revenues amounted to **€13.5 billion**, of which almost 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.