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Air Liquide in the U.S. to power Coca-Cola hydrogen forklift fleet at California facility

press release



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Air Liquide in the U.S.

employs nearly 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 to help them maximize productivity, operate more efficiently and reduce their environmental footprints.

Air Liquide Industrial U.S. LP (Air Liquide) will supply **hydrogen** to power a fleet of 37 forklift vehicles at Coca-Cola's bottling and distribution center in San Leandro, California. Air Liquide will provide the **liquid hydrogen, filling station and infrastructure** to power the forklift fleet at Coca-Cola's **250,000 square foot** facility.

Hydrogen fuel cell powered forklift trucks represent an important segment of the hydrogen energy market. These types of vehicles are virtually **greenhouse gas emissions free**. Using these vehicles can help the Coca-Cola save 1.6 million kilowatt hours of electricity annually by removing the infrastructure associated with traditional lead-acid batteries.

Hydrogen is a **key growth market** for Air Liquide in North America as well as an area of focus for the company to enable industry by developing and deploying innovative, energy efficient and environmentally friendly solutions.

This agreement is Air Liquide's second hydrogen fueling installation of this type in North America that combines the hydrogen supply and refilling expertise of Air Liquide with Plug Power's GenDrive® fuel cell solution. The first such agreement was Air Liquide's forklift installation at Walmart Canada's sustainable distribution center in Alberta, Canada.

In 2010, Air Liquide has provided **more than 40,000 hydrogen fills worldwide**. The company has a number of other filling installations in North America, including those for buses and other vehicles. Air Liquide provided hydrogen and filling infrastructure for transit buses at the 2010 Winter Olympics.

Other hydrogen partnerships are arising all over the world: Air Liquide will provide one hydrogen station in Oslo, **Norway** to supply five buses from a Norwegian transportation company. In **Japan**, two other hydrogen filling stations were recently delivered including one for the regional government of Saga to demonstrate the feasibility of a complete "green hydrogen" chain from wood chips to clean mobility.

Michael J. Graff, President & CEO of American Air Liquide Holdings, Inc. and member of the Air Liquide Group Executive Committee: ***"Air Liquide continues to pave the way in providing innovative technology and demonstrated solutions for global challenges such as energy efficiency and environmental responsibility. The Coca-Cola installation is the latest to validate hydrogen as a practical and commercially viable fuel source and Air Liquide's leading role in this growing global market. Both Energy and the Environment are growth drivers of the Air Liquide Group."***

"Sustainability is a core component of our business at Coca-Cola and we have a goal to be the beverage industry leader in energy conservation and climate protection," said **Brian P. Kelly**, Product Supply Leader, Coca-Cola Refreshments. ***"Converting to hydrogen fuel cell powered forklifts in our San Leandro facility represents one more step towards our commitment to reduce carbon emissions by 15 percent by 2020."***

Hydrogen, an energy carrier

The world of energy is in the midst of deep change and **hydrogen is one of the solutions that offer a response in the short term to the challenges of sustainable mobility**: reducing greenhouse gases, local pollution in our cities and dependency on oil-based fuels. Used in the fuel cell, hydrogen combines with oxygen from air to produce electricity, with water as the only by-product. Hydrogen can be produced from a various range of energy sources, natural gas, in particular, but also renewable energy sources. Hydrogen thus has great potential to provide clean energy and ensure reliability of supplies.

Air Liquide is present across the entire hydrogen energy chain (production, distribution, high-pressure storage, fuel cells and hydrogen filling stations).

The Coca-Cola Company (NYSE: KO) is the world's largest beverage company, refreshing consumers with more than 500 sparkling and still brands. The Company's portfolio includes 14 billion dollar brands, including Coca-Cola, recognized as the world's most valuable brand, as well as Diet Coke, Fanta, Sprite, Coca-Cola Zero, vitaminwater, Powerade, Minute Maid, Simply and Georgia. Globally, we are the No. 1 provider of sparkling beverages, juices and juice drinks and ready-to-drink teas and coffees. Through the world's largest beverage distribution system, consumers in more than 200 countries enjoy the Company's beverages at a rate of 1.7 billion servings a day. With an enduring commitment to building sustainable communities, our Company is focused on initiatives that protect the environment, conserve resources and enhance the economic development of the communities where we operate. For more information about our Company, please visit our website at www.thecoca-colacompany.com.

Air Liquide is the world leader in gases for industry, health and the environment, and is present in 80 countries with 42,300 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 2009, the Group's revenues amounted to **€12 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.