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Air Liquide to expand capacity in Cleburne, Texas

press release

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Air Liquide Industrial U.S. LP (“Air Liquide”) broke ground today on a new **nitrogen liquefier** at its air separation plant in **Cleburne, Texas**. The plant expansion will **support market growth and fuel job creation in the region**.

The additional liquefier, scheduled to begin commercial production in the third quarter of 2012, will enable Air Liquide to **nearly double its supply of industrial gases** from the facility in Cleburne to the Texas and Oklahoma merchant markets.

To support the increased production capacity, Air Liquide plans to **increase its workforce in Cleburne by at least one-third** by hiring as many as 21 permanent employees, including production technicians and truck drivers, in addition to approximately 50 workers needed to construct the expansion.

Air Liquide in the U.S.

Air Liquide companies in the U.S. employ nearly **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.

Community support for the plant’s expansion was evident this morning, as local public officials participated in the groundbreaking ceremony. Among the participants were Johnson County Judge Roger Harmon; Justin Hewlett, Mayor of Cleburne; and Cathy Marchel, president of the Cleburne Chamber of Commerce.

Mark Lostak, President of Air Liquide Industrial U.S. LP, said during the ceremony: ***“Air Liquide is very pleased to announce the expansion of our air separation plant in Cleburne. The additional capacity further establishes our market presence as we grow to meet the increasing demands of merchant customers in Texas and Oklahoma. On behalf of Air Liquide, I’d like to thank the local community for their support. Air Liquide is proud of its longstanding presence in Cleburne and Johnson County, and we are pleased to be driving growth and new jobs in the region.”***

Air Liquide’s air separation plant in Cleburne has been in operation since January of 1998, producing **oxygen, nitrogen and argon**. The facility **services a variety of market segments** including food & beverage, manufacturing, glass, electronics, oil & gas, and chemicals.

Note to editors: Photographs are available upon request. To request a photo, please email [Air Liquide Corporate Communications](mailto:Air.Liquide.Corporate.Communications).

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.*