

Japan: Air Liquide opens Saga Hydrogen Filling Station for local sustainable mobility

Today, Air Liquide Japan Ltd. is pleased to announce that it has completed the construction of **Saga Hydrogen Filling Station** in the Saga City of Japan, and held its **opening ceremony** at the site.

Air Liquide Japan is actively participating in developing and promoting the hydrogen mobility technologies in Japan, based on Air Liquide's presence across the entire hydrogen supply chain, from production to storage, distribution and the development of end user applications, and on its **expertise** acquired from installing more than **75** hydrogen filling stations around the world.

The station is the **first public-use station in the Saga Prefecture**, and the construction is subsidized from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and from the Saga Prefectural Government. The compressed hydrogen off-site station, which uses material hydrogen transported from outside, has a capacity to supply 100 Nm³ per hour of hydrogen, and will be **Japan's first small size off-site hydrogen station** ever installed. With this technology, Air Liquide contributes to flexibility in promoting hydrogen stations nationwide by increasing **the number of choices best suited for each local demand**.

To demonstrate Air Liquide's **commitment to the local society** while developing hydrogen mobility business, **drawings by 4th-grade students** of the neighbouring **Jin-no Elementary School** have been displayed on the wall of the station. Under the theme of "Our town for future and for ecology", 47 pieces of artwork altogether were submitted, out of which the best four were selected for display. Four young artists were invited to the event today and joined the unveiling ceremony.

Shiro YAHARA, President and CEO of Air Liquide Japan, commented: *"I would like to express my deepest appreciation to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Saga Prefecture and Saga City governments, who provided us with great support, as well as all concerned parties of the local society. While bringing technology and innovation for the development for the future as the way to show our leadership and social responsibility, we also see the importance of collaborating with local communities as our activities are spread all over the country. We will continue our efforts to contribute to the sustainable development of the society for the generation of students who created excellent drawings for our new station."*

Air Liquide in Japan

Established in 1907 in Japan, Air Liquide now serves 15,000 customers across the country, particularly in Electronics, thanks to its 2,000 employees. The Group also has a Research and Technology Centre in Tsukuba (near Tokyo) and an Engineering center in Kobe. Japan serves as a technology & research base for Air Liquide in Asia and beyond.

Hydrogen, a clean energy carrier

Hydrogen can be produced from a wide range of energy sources, natural gas in particular, but also from renewable energy sources.

With its **Blue Hydrogen commitment**, Air Liquide is moving towards a gradual decarbonisation of its hydrogen production dedicated to energy applications. In practical terms, Air Liquide is committed to producing at least 50 % of the hydrogen necessary for these applications through carbon-free processes by 2020, by combining:

- renewable energy sources, water electrolysis and biogas reforming,
- carbon capture and storage technologies during the hydrogen production process based on natural gas.

Hydrogen is already a highly efficient energy carrier when produced from natural gas: for the same distance covered, hydrogen vehicles enable to reduce well-to-wheel greenhouse gas emissions by 20% compared with internal combustion vehicles.

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World leader in gases, technologies and services for Industry and Health, Air Liquide is present in 80 countries with more than 50,000 employees and serves more than 2 million customers and patients. Oxygen, nitrogen and hydrogen have been at the core of the company's activities since its creation in 1902. Air Liquide's ambition is to be the leader in its industry, delivering long-term performance and acting responsibly.

Air Liquide ideas create value over the long term. At the core of the company's development are the commitment and constant inventiveness of its people.

Air Liquide anticipates the challenges of its markets, invests locally and globally, and delivers high-quality solutions to its customers and patients, and the scientific community.

The company relies on competitiveness in its operations, targeted investments in growing markets and innovation to deliver profitable growth over the long-term.

Air Liquide's revenues amounted to € 16.4 billion in 2015 and its solutions that protect life and the environment represented more than 40% of sales. 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.