

Paris, April 25, 2007

Press release**First quarter 2007:**

- **Revenue € 2,791 million**
- +5.2%** (on a comparable basis*)
- **Major strategic steps forward**

Key figures 1st quarter 2007:

Gas and Services revenue	€ 2,452 million	+5.3%*
Group revenue	€ 2,791 million	+5.2%*

* on a comparable basis: excluding currency and natural gas

- Consolidated Group revenue is up **+5.2%**, on a comparable basis, with Operating Income Recurring growing faster. The stronger euro has generated a negative currency effect on revenue (-3.7%) while natural gas prices have continued to fall (-0.9%). In total, published revenue is up +0.6%.
- All business lines are up, with excellent growth in **Asia**, slight recovery in **Europe** and softer progression in **North America**

First quarter highlights:

- Consolidation of our **leadership in Asia** with the announced acquisition of BOC's shareholdings in our JVs in Japan and South-East Asia (Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Brunei)
- Announced acquisition of Linde UK, a new **growth platform** for Healthcare in Great Britain and numerous **new long term contracts** signed
- Widening of our **technological capacities**, especially in energy solutions, with the announced acquisition of Lurgi

Commenting on first quarter activity, **Benoît Potier, Chairman and CEO of the Air Liquide Group**, stated:

“Since the beginning of 2007, Air Liquide has made several major steps towards its new medium-term growth objectives: we have thus built undisputed leadership in Asia, widely developed our large contract portfolio and carried out key acquisitions which will contribute to the growth for the years to come.

In the first quarter, comparable revenue growth is consistent with previous quarters, with progression in all business lines and in all geographies. This trend should continue in the second quarter.

This good start gives us confidence for the full year and allows us to maintain our goal for 2007 to reach double-digit growth in net profit.”

1- GAS AND SERVICES

In the first quarter 2007, Gas and Services revenue was **2,452 million euros**, an increase of +5.3% on a comparable basis* versus first quarter 2006. Operating Income Recurring grew at a higher rate. Performance was driven by continued excellent growth in Asia, a confirmed recovery in Germany and softer growth in North America.

Revenue (million €)	1 st quarter 2007	Change Q1 07 / 06 (published)	Change Q1 07 / 06 (comparable*)
Europe	1,351	+3.5%	+4.1%
Americas	628	-7.7%	+3.2%
Asia-Pacific	431	+3.6%	+11.9%
Africa and Middle East	42	-2.9%	+11.9%
Gas and Services	2,452	+0.3%	+5.3%
Industrial Merchant	1,091	+0.0%	+4.3%
Large Industries	763	-1.5%	+5.5%
Electronics	214	+1.5%	+8.8%
Healthcare	384	+4.3%	+5.9%

* on a comparable basis: excluding currency and natural gas

Except where indicated, comments below are all made with regard to changes on a comparable basis in first quarter 2007 versus first quarter 2006.

- **Europe**

Revenue was **1,351 million euros**, an increase of **+4.1%** with an improvement in Industrial Merchant growth. Large Industries utilization rates remained at a high level with no major start-up, and Healthcare maintained its growth trend.

In a better manufacturing environment, **Industrial Merchant** revenue showed a solid increase (+3.3%), in a context of stable prices. Growth was mainly driven by bulk volumes especially in Germany, Spain and Italy. Cylinder activity picked up in Germany and Scandinavia.

In **Large Industries** (+2.8%), high activity levels were maintained for both hydrogen and air gases, with stronger demand in Germany. Capacity utilization remained good in chemicals, while the steel industry continued to arbitrate production. The second half of 2007 will benefit from some significant start-ups.

In **Healthcare**, growth was sustained this quarter (+6.3%). Homecare and hygiene growth, both in France and Germany, was double digit. Medical gases were up while equipment sales to hospitals were down relative to a high level in first quarter 2006.

Electronics registered double digit growth (+11.3%) driven mainly by equipment and installation sales, especially in Germany.

- **Americas**

Revenue in the Americas amounted to **628 million euros**, an increase of **+3.2%** with softer growth in North America.

Industrial Merchant progressed at a slower pace (+3.5%). US demand remains strong but growth was constrained by capacity. Pricing remained favorable. Sales were stable in Canada, relative to a high level in 2006, due to weaker energy and mining environment. South America recorded double digit growth.

In **Large Industries** (+3.1%), hydrogen volumes for refineries grew strongly with the ramp-up of the new unit in Bayport, which is supplying our Gulf Coast network. Oxygen demand was down slightly, due to continued inventory management in the steel industry. Cogeneration activity was down, primarily due to the impact of the Sabine cogen divestiture at the end of the first six months of 2006.

In **Electronics** (+3.7%), the strong growth in recurring business (+12%), especially carrier gases and services, was partially offset by lower equipment and installation sales which were particularly significant in Q1 2006.

- **Asia-Pacific**

Revenue in Asia-Pacific amounted to **431 million euros**, an increase of **+11.9%**, driven by both dynamic demand in Japan, and sustained development in emerging countries including China, South Korea and South-East Asia. All business lines contributed to this growth.

Industrial Merchant saw very robust development (+7.4%). In Japan, we experienced strong demand from the automotive, glass and plastics markets with firm pricing. Demand in China remained extremely buoyant.

Electronics sales growth was close to double digit (+9.5%), including a boost from the TNA, our joint venture with Toshiba in analysis services in Japan. ESG volumes were also up in Japan although down in Taiwan and South Korea. Carrier gases were the main contributors to this increase, with the impact of several ramp-ups, especially in China and Taiwan

Large Industries saw substantial growth (+29.0%): revenue more than tripled in China with the ramp-up of several units both in air gases and hydrogen, to meet demand from steel and chemical clients.

- **Africa and the Middle East**

Africa and the Middle East continued to record double digit growth, driven mainly by dynamic Industrial Merchant activity in South Africa.

2- RELATED ACTIVITIES

Revenue (million €)	1 st quarter 2007	Change Q1 07 / 06 (comparable*)
Welding	152	+13.8%
Engineering and Construction	86	-10.0%
Other activities	101	+6.7%
Related Activities	339	+4.5%

**on a comparable basis: excluding currency and natural gas*

Welding achieved another good quarter (+13.8%) across all geographies and particularly Central and Eastern Europe, driven by consumables and durables.

Engineering and Construction activities continued to operate at full capacity. Sales to third parties decreased over the first quarter due to some delays in the progress of certain projects.

3- FIRST QUARTER 2007 KEY EVENTS

Since the beginning of the year, Air Liquide has made several strategic steps towards reaching its new mid-term growth objectives.

In **Large Industries**, we have strengthened our positions with the signing of a number of large contracts, including two key projects recently communicated in China (for Shagang, leading Chinese steel manufacturer and for Sinopec in Qingdao) and a major steel contract in Brazil for ThyssenKrupp. We have also won a large contract for Dow in Portugal and have very recently reported a new investment in Trinidad and Tobago. The announced acquisition of the engineering firm Lurgi, a global leader in hydrogen, synthesis gas and biofuel technologies, will enable us to strengthen our engineering capacities throughout the world, in order to support this growth.

In **Asia**, with the announced acquisition of BOC's shareholdings in our JVs, we are taking full control of our activities in Japan as well as in South-East Asia (Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Brunei). We have thus become **number one in Asia**. We have also recently won a contract with HSMC for the first electronics fab ever to be built in India.

As far as **Healthcare** is concerned, the announced acquisition of Linde Gas UK (30% of revenue in healthcare), provides a new platform in the British medical gases and homecare markets from which to develop.

More than ever, our **innovations** are preparing tomorrow's markets. Our partnership with Total on the first CO₂ capture and geological storage project in France and our new Biogaz process developed in the US to transform landfill emissions into energy are the most recent examples. Finally, the opening of our new Research and Technology Center in the US will enable us to build up our technological excellence.

Financial calendar 2007:

Annual General Meeting	Wednesday, May 9
Information meeting in Nice	Thursday, May 24
Information meeting in Lyon	Wednesday, May 30
Information meeting in Brussels	Monday, June 18
1st half revenue and results	Friday, August 3
Information meeting in Dijon	Thursday, October 4
Information meeting in Reims	Monday, October 8
3rd quarter 2007 revenue	Thursday, October 25
Information meeting in Geneva	Wednesday, November 14

Present in 72 countries, **Air Liquide** is a **world leader** in industrial and medical gases and related services. The Group offers **innovative solutions** based on constantly enhanced **technologies**. These solutions, which are consistent with Air Liquide's commitment to **sustainable development**, help to protect life and enable our customers to manufacture many indispensable everyday products. Founded in 1902, Air Liquide has nearly 37,000 employees. The Group has successfully developed a long-term relationship with its shareholders built on **trust** and **transparency** and guided by the principles of **corporate governance**. Since the publication of its first consolidated financial statements in 1971, Air Liquide has posted **strong and steady earnings growth**. Revenue in 2006 totaled 10,949 million euros, with revenue outside France accounting for almost 80%. Air Liquide is listed on the Paris stock exchange and is a component of the CAC 40 and Eurostoxx 50 indices (ISIN code FR 0000120073).

For further information, please contact:

Group Communication

Dominique Maire ☎ + 33 (0)1 40 62 53 56

Corinne Estrade-Bordry ☎ + 33 (0)1 40 62 51 31

Investor Relations

Virginia Jeanson

Aude Rodriguez

☎ + 33 (0)1 40 62 57 37

☎ + 33 (0)1 40 62 57 18

www.airliquide.com

APPENDIX (1)

In addition to the comparison of published figures, financial information is given excluding currency, the impact of fluctuations in natural gas price and excluding significant perimeter effect when applicable.

Since industrial and medical gases are very rarely exported, the impact of currency fluctuations on revenue and results is limited to the accounting consolidation in euros of the financial statements of our foreign subsidiaries. Fluctuations in natural gas prices are passed on to our customers through indexed pricing clauses.

Consolidated revenue includes the following elements:

	Revenue (million €)	Change (as published)	Currency	Natural gas	Perimeter	Change on a comparable basis*
Group						
1st quarter 2007	2,791	+ 0.6%	- 101	-25	-	+ 5.2%

Gas and Services						
1st quarter 2007	2,452	+0.3%	-97	-25	-	+ 5.3%

* on a comparable basis: excluding currency and natural gas

- The **currency effect** linked with the conversion of the financial statements of our subsidiaries into euros represents -101 million euros, an impact of -3.7% on growth for the Group. This currency effect stems mainly from appreciation of the euro, particularly against the yen and the US and Canadian dollars.
- **Natural gas prices** were globally stable over first quarter 2007. However, they were significantly lower relative to first quarter 2006. In total, the change in natural gas prices represents an impact of -25 million euros, or -0.9% on Group revenue.
- There is no perimeter effect in the first quarter 2007.

APPENDIX (2)

Revenue by business

in million euros

	2006	2007
	1 st quarter	1 st quarter
GAS & SERVICES	2,444.8	2,452.1
<i>Industrial Merchant</i>	1,091.3	1,091.3
<i>Large Industries</i>	774.3	762.7
<i>Electronics</i>	211.3	214.5
<i>Healthcare</i>	367.9	383.6
AL WELDING	133.0	151.2
OTHER ACTIVITIES	96.7	101.1
<i>Chemicals</i>	59.1	63.1
<i>Sundry</i>	37.1	37.4
<i>Holding</i>	0.5	0.6
ENGINEERING/CONSTRUCTION	98.5	86.1
TOTAL	2,773.0	2,790.5

Revenue by regions

in million euros

2007: 31 March	France	Europe <i>Excl. France</i>	Total Europe	Americas	Asia Pacific	Africa/ Middle- East	TOTAL
GAS & SERVICES	479.2	871.9	1,351.1	627.7	431.3	42.0	2,452.1
AL WELDING	48.6	102.6	151.2				151.2
OTHER ACTIVITIES	68.6	10.7	79.3	20.2	1.6		101.1
Sub/total excluding Eng/Construction	596.4	985.2	1,581.6	647.9	432.9	42.0	2,704.4
ENGINEERING/CONSTRUCTION	58.0		58.0	11.7	16.4		86.1
TOTAL	654.4	985.2	1,639.6	659.6	449.3	42.0	2,790.5

2006: 31 March	France	Europe <i>Excl. France</i>	Total Europe	Americas	Asia Pacific	Africa/ Middle- East	TOTAL
GAS & SERVICES	470.2	835.0	1,305.2	679.9	416.5	43.2	2,444.8
AL WELDING	44.7	88.3	133.0				133.0
OTHER ACTIVITIES	66.9	10.7	77.6	17.3	1.8		96.7
Sub/total excluding Eng/Construction	581.8	934.0	1,515.8	697.2	418.3	43.2	2,674.5
ENGINEERING/CONSTRUCTION	32.7	8.8	41.5	11.1	43.8	2.1	98.5
TOTAL	614.5	942.8	1,557.3	708.3	462.1	45.3	2,773.0