

Tokyo, October 26, 2016

## Japan: Air Liquide will open the hydrogen station in Fukuoka's "Green Asia International Strategic Comprehensive Special Zone"

Air Liquide Japan announces that it will open "**Fukuoka Miyata Hydrogen Station**" in Miyawaka City, Fukuoka Prefecture. Construction has been started to complete in February 2017, and open in March 2017.

On October 26, 2016, Air Liquide Japan received the certificate of "**Green Asia International Strategic Comprehensive Special Zone**" program, from Mr. Hiroshi Ogawa, Governor of Fukuoka Prefecture, as 57th company supported by the program. The station will benefit from METI (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan) and Fukuoka Prefecture support.

The station will be built on the land rented by **Toyota Motor Kyushu, Inc.**, inside its **Miyata Plant**. The site is located between Fukuoka City and Kita-kyushu City, which have also been equipped with public-use hydrogen stations. Its location, convenient for users, will allow it to become **one of the main areas of hydrogen mobility development** in Kyushu.

The station employs the "**compressed hydrogen off-site**" system, bringing high pressure hydrogen gas from sources in Kyushu area, and adjusting the pressure of the material gas to charge hydrogen-powered vehicles.

Air Liquide masters the entire hydrogen supply chain, from production to storage and from distribution to the development of applications for end users. The Group is actively participating in promoting the widespread use of hydrogen as a clean energy, especially for the transportation sector. At the end of 2015, **75 hydrogen charging stations** have already been designed and installed by Air Liquide worldwide. In Japan, it co-runs **two public-use hydrogen charging stations in Aichi** Prefecture through the joint venture with Toyota Tsusho Corporation, and runs one in **Saga**, which was just opened earlier this year.

### **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**

Used in a fuel cell, hydrogen combines with oxygen from the air to produce electricity while releasing only water. Hydrogen can be produced from diverse sources of energy, including natural gas, but also from many renewable energy sources. This makes hydrogen one of the solutions for the supply of clean energy, while its storage capacity offers a guarantee of supply safety.

### **Blue Hydrogen**

Is an Air Liquide program whose goal is to gradually decarbonize its production of hydrogen dedicated to energy applications. In practical terms, Air Liquide has made a commitment to produce at least 50% of the hydrogen necessary for these applications through carbon-free processes by 2020 by combining:

- the use of renewable energies, water electrolysis, and biogas reforming,
- the use of technologies for the capture and upgrading of carbon emitted during the process of producing hydrogen from natural gas.

Even when it is produced from natural gas, hydrogen is a virtuous energy: for equal distance traveled, hydrogen cars allow to reduce GHG emissions by 20% compared with internal combustion vehicles and don't produce any fine particles.

### **Green Asia International Strategic Comprehensive Special Zone**

is one of "International Strategic Comprehensive Special Zones", designated by the Government of Japan. "Green Asia Special Zone" aims to development of eco-friendly products, and establishment of next-generation bases for recycling, utilizing adjacency of Fukuoka, and Kitakyushu, to Asia.

## **CONTACTS**

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The world leader in gases, technologies and services for Industry and Health, Air Liquide is present in 80 countries with approximately 68,000 employees and serves more than 3 million customers and patients\*. Oxygen, nitrogen and hydrogen are essential small molecules for life, matter and energy. They embody Air Liquide's scientific territory and have been at the core of the company's activities since its creation in 1902.

Air Liquide's ambition is to lead its industry, deliver long-term performance and contribute to sustainability. The company's customer-centric transformation strategy aims at profitable growth over the long term. It relies on operational excellence, selective investments, open innovation and a network organization implemented by the Group worldwide. Through the commitment and inventiveness of its people, Air Liquide leverages energy and environment transition, changes in healthcare and digitization, and delivers greater value to all its stakeholders.

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. On 23 May 2016, Air Liquide completed its acquisition of Airgas, which had revenues amounting to \$5.3 billion (around €4.8 billion) for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2016.

Air Liquide is listed on the Paris Euronext stock exchange (compartment A) and belongs to the CAC 40 and Dow Jones Euro Stoxx 50 indexes.

\* Following the acquisition of Airgas on 23 May 2016