

Air Liquide signs a long-term contract with Evraz

Air Liquide and Evraz, a world major steel producer, have signed a long-term contract for the supply of oxygen, nitrogen and argon in Novokuznetsk, Russian Federation. Air Liquide will invest around 130 million euros for the construction of two state-of-the-art Air Separation Units (ASUs). These plants will improve energy efficiency and the overall environmental footprint of the production process.

Oxygen, nitrogen and argon are needed for many applications in the steel industry, ranging from the air enrichment of blast furnaces to oxygen-based steel production processes. Argon in particular is used in the production of high quality steel.

Air Liquide will design, build, own and operate **two new ASUs of 1,500 ton per day of oxygen each** at Evraz ZSMK site in Novokuznetsk. Air Liquide will bring to Evraz its world class expertise in industrial gas supply. The Air Liquide Engineering and Construction teams will bring their state-of-the-art technologies for these two large ASUs, thereby providing improved efficiencies, reliability and safety.

Expected to **start operation in 2021**, these new ASUs will offer Air Liquide a new source of oxygen, nitrogen and argon to supply the industrial gas market in Kemerovo Region, Western Siberia.

During the signing ceremony which took place today at 2018 Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF):

Olivier Randet, Air Liquide Vice-President supervising Eastern Europe and Central Asia, said: *"We are delighted to sign this long-term contract with Evraz for one of their main production sites. With this new contract, Air Liquide enlarges its footprint in Siberia. We are committed to making this project a success that will further strengthen our leadership in the region."*

Alexey Soldatenkov, Vice-President Head of the Siberia Division, Evraz, commented: *"EVRAZ ZSMK continues its program of renovation and modernization, choosing the best technical solutions. I am confident that partnership with Air Liquide, the world leader in the production of gases, is the optimal choice that will improve the efficiency of our production and generally the competitiveness of the plant."*

The Large Industries business line of Air Liquide

Offers gas and energy solutions that improve process efficiency and help achieve greater respect for the environment, mainly in the refining and natural gas, chemicals, metals and energy markets. In 2017, revenues were €5,336 million.

Air Liquide in Russia

Air Liquide was established in Russia in 1989 and was primarily involved in the sale of industrial gas production equipment. In 2005, OOO Air Liquide, the Russian subsidiary for production and sale of industrial gases was founded. Today, the company operates 15 industrial sites in key regions. More than 600 employees supply products and services to over 1,500 customers.

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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 65,000 employees and serves more than 3.5 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 revenue amounted to 20.3 billion euros in 2017 and its solutions that protect life and the environment represented more than 40% of sales. Air Liquide is listed on the Euronext Paris stock exchange (compartment A) and belongs to the CAC 40, EURO STOXX 50 and FTSE4Good indexes.