

Air Liquide and EVRAZ lay the foundation stone of the Novokuznetsk industrial gases plant

Following the signature of a long-term contract that was initially [announced on May 24, 2018](#), Air Liquide and EVRAZ inaugurated today the construction site of the two Air Separation Units (ASUs) that will supply the steel maker with oxygen, nitrogen and argon in Novokuznetsk, Russian Federation.

The ceremony took place in presence of the Governor of Kuzbass region, Mr. S.Tsyvilev, regional officials, Air Liquide and EVRAZ executives.

Air Liquide will invest around 130 million euros¹ for the construction of the two state-of-the-art Air Separation Units (ASUs), which will **improve the energy efficiency and the overall environmental footprint of the EVRAZ production process in Novokuznetsk.**

These new ASUs, which are expected to be operational in 2021, **will also allow Air Liquide to supply oxygen, nitrogen and argon to the gas market in Kemerovo Region, Western Siberia.**

The government of Kuzbass supports the project in the frame of the special agreement.

Bruno Ponson, General Director Air Liquide in Russia, declared: *"I would like to congratulate Evraz and Air Liquide' Teams for starting this ambitious project. We are committed to making this project a success that will further strengthen our leadership in the region."*

Alexey Soldatenkov, Vice-President EVRAZ, Head of the Siberia Division, commented: *"I am glad that after the initial preparation, the project is moving to the implementation stage. Modern installations will be 30% more energy efficient than previous equipment, thus this will increase the efficiency of our production and the overall competitiveness of the plant."*

Sergey Tsyvelev, the governor of Kuzbass, noted: *"Kuzbass is open for investments, we create favorable conditions for their inflow. And we are glad to see that companies such as Air Liquide are expanding their activities in our dynamically developing region. We support the company's decision to work in Kuzbass and look forward to expanding our cooperation."*

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 2018, revenues were €5,685 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 500 employees supply products and services to over 1,500 customers.

¹ Air Liquide 2018 investment decision

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A world leader in gases, technologies and services for Industry and Health, Air Liquide is present in 80 countries with approximately 66,000 employees and serves more than 3.6 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 be a leader in 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 21 billion euros in 2018 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.