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Belgium: additional investment of €50 million in the Antwerp basin

press release



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Air Liquide in Benelux

Founded in Belgium in 1906 and in the Netherlands in 1913, Air Liquide currently operates 27 industrial sites throughout Benelux. Its 1,100 employees serve more than 25,000 customers.

The Large Industries Business Line

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. **2012 revenues were €4,585 million.**

The chemicals industry has maintained its position in Western Europe's **major industrial basins**, buoyed by dynamic players with significant industrial gas needs. The Antwerp basin is **the largest chemical and petro-chemical basin in Europe.**

Air Liquide has just signed a **long-term contract with BASF** to supply **carbon monoxide** to its MDI* production unit located in Antwerp, Belgium.

Air Liquide will invest in a new carbon monoxide production unit located next to its existing facilities. This unit, which is scheduled to be up and running in **the first quarter of 2015**, will **double Air Liquide's carbon monoxide production capacity in this basin.**

The overall investment will amount to around €50 million.

This unit will be designed and built by Air Liquide Engineering and Construction teams, using state-of-the-art technologies that offer **energy efficiency** as well as optimal **performance** and **safety**.

Guy Salzgeber, Vice-President, Western Europe and a member of the Air Liquide Executive Committee, commented: ***"Understanding the needs and constraints of our customers allows us to provide them with cutting-edge technology solutions. Through its investments, Air Liquide supports the development and competitiveness of European manufacturers."***

**MDI (Methylene Diphenyl Diisocyanate) is one of the initial components of polyurethane, which is used to manufacture high resilience foam seating, durable elastomeric wheels, high performance adhesives, etc.*

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Air Liquide network of pipelines in Benelux

Air Liquide is the world leader in gases for industry, health and the environment, and is present in **80 countries** with **close to 50,000 employees**. Oxygen, nitrogen, hydrogen and rare gases have been at the core of Air Liquide's activities since its creation in 1902. Using these molecules, Air Liquide continuously reinvents its business, anticipating the needs of current and future markets. The Group innovates for the good of society while delivering profitable growth and consistent performance.

Innovative technologies that curb polluting emissions, lower industry's energy use, recover and reuse natural resources or develop the energies of tomorrow, such as hydrogen, biofuels or photovoltaic energy... Oxygen for hospitals, home healthcare, fighting nosocomial infections... Air Liquide combines many products and technologies to develop valuable applications and services not only for its customers but also for society.

A partner for the long term, Air Liquide relies on employee commitment, customer trust and shareholder support to pursue its vision of sustainable, competitive growth. The **diversity** of Air Liquide's teams, businesses, markets and geographic presence provides a solid and sustainable base for its development and strengthens its ability to push back its own limits, conquer new territories and build its future.

Air Liquide explores the best that air can offer to preserve life, staying true to its Corporate Social Responsibility and sustainable development approach. In 2012, the Group's revenues amounted to **€ 15.3 billion** of which 82% were generated outside France. 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.