



information

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Press Release

First hydrogen fuel cell contract with Bouygues Télécom

Air Liquide and its wholly owned subsidiary **Axane**, which specializes in the design and production of fuel cells, are proud to announce a new contract with **Bouygues Télécom**.

Under the terms of the contract, **Air Liquide** and **Axane** will provide the telecom operator with a 2kW RollerPac™ fuel cell, together with the hydrogen and services needed to run it. The fuel cell will supply continuous supply to a **Bouygues Télécom** pylon located in Menville, near Toulouse. A remote surveillance system will enable Air Liquide's local teams to anticipate any maintenance needs.

This operation will serve as a means of testing fuel cell technology incorporating a hydrogen supply, as an alternative primary or back-up energy source for GSM antennas located in isolated areas, which are not easily connected to the conventional electricity grid.

Commenting on this new contract, François Jackow, Vice-President of Research, Development and Technologies for Air Liquide, stated: **"This project is perfectly in keeping with our initiative for the development of hydrogen as a clean energy source. Based on the results of this trial, we expect to extend our collaboration with Bouygues Télécom, installing fuel cells at other isolated sites on its telecommunications network."**

Air Liquide's expertise in hydrogen production and supply complements **Axane's** skills in the field of design, development and production of **ready-to-use fuel cells**. Today these combined strengths result in a broad offer ranging from portable generators (rescue systems or special events), stationary (GSM antenna) and mobile applications. These systems are able to be incorporated into certain urban public transport vehicles (hybrid vehicles).

Present in 65 countries, **Air Liquide** is the **world leader** in industrial and medical gases and related services. The Group offers **innovative solutions** based on constantly enhanced **technologies**. **These solutions, which are in line 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 more than 35,000 employees. The Group has successfully developed a long-term relationship with its shareholders built on confidence 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**. Sales in 2003 totaled 8,394 million euros, of which sales outside France accounted almost 80%. Air Liquide is listed on the Euronext Paris stock exchange and is a component of the CAC 40 and EuroStoxx 50 indexes (ISIN code FR 0000120073).

Created in May 2001 by the Air Liquide group, **AXANE**, which specializes in the development of PEM (Proton Exchange Membrane) fuel cells, has honed a **new generation of high-performance fuel cells**. **AXANE's** new fuel cell design, which is derived from **EVOPAC™** technology, was successfully tested in Spring 2002, during the Ice Cap Mission led by Doctor Jean-Louis ETIENNE.

For further information, please contact:

Corporate Communication:

Dominique Maire ☎ + 33 (0)1 40 62 53 56
Joëlle Ambon ☎ + 33 (0)1 40 62 51 31

Communication Axane:

Dominique Lecocq ☎ + 33 (0)4 76 43 64 97

www.airliquide.com

www.axane.fr