



informations



Sassenage, October 30, 2003

**Air Liquide Subsidiary Axane
Announces Launch of Fuel Cell Prototype
at Miami Fuel Cell Conference**

Miami, Florida (October 31, 2003) — In response to the current emergence of clean energy sources, Axane, a wholly owned Air Liquide subsidiary, announces the launch of its first commercial offer of fuel cell systems.

The impact of greenhouse gases on our environment has become a global concern. In response, Air Liquide and Axane have developed a hydrogen fuel cell energy offer — an integrated energy solution in accord with environmental concerns fully in line with Air Liquide's commitment to sustainable development. Fuel cell technology, offered by Axane coupled with hydrogen technology offered by Air Liquide make this coupling the first of its kind.

Non-polluting, silent and available for a large power range, fuel cells featuring the hydrogen-fed Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) technology are the environmentally friendly "generator of electricity" of choice for public transportation, stationary applications, scooters and hybrid vehicles worldwide. The Air Liquide/Axane fuel cell launch is supported by the success of its use by the French explorer Jean-Louis Etienne during his polar ice cap mission last year. The fuel cell supplied the mission's electricity needs from April through July 2002.

During the Fuel Cell Seminar in Miami (Booth #717-719, November 3-7), Air Liquide and Axane will be showcasing Roller Pac™, a portable two kilowatt, 110 volt AC electric power generator with a hydrogen fuel cell. Roller Pac™ is the first example of an application of the modular concept EVOPAC™ demonstrating the integration of a fuel cell system in a portable power generator.

The driving force, experience and expertise of the Air Liquide and Axane teams have enabled the introduction of this concept. It offers a modular energy generator and wide versatility for multiple uses, with a power range of 500 watts to 10 kilowatts. Applications range from powering portable generators to small stationary and/or transport applications.

Other hydrogen energy applications used by Air Liquide include a hydrogen fueling station in Luxembourg, used to power three EvoBuses run on fuel cells, and two other stations in Madrid and Kawasaki (Japan).

About Axane

In May 2001, after a five-year exploratory phase in fuel cells, Air Liquide created Axane.

Axane's mission is to develop complete packaged systems on a global scale that produce energy from fuel cells powered by hydrogen. The combination of skills, technological advances and expertise from Air Liquide, enables Axane to have at its disposal a research team without equal in Europe.

Axane is positioning itself to target three markets that are likely to provide broad commercial outlets in the short term: - Portable multi-application generators (500 W to 10 kW), - Stationary applications (more than 2 kW), - Mobile applications for small hybrid vehicles (2 kW to 10 kW).

The first industrial applications are forecast for 2004, with an initial focus on the portable generators market.

About Air Liquide

*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 help to protect life and enable our customers to manufacture many indispensable everyday products. Founded in 1902, Air Liquide has 30,800 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 2002 totaled 7,900 million euros, sales outside France accounted for more than 80%. Air Liquide is listed on the Euronext Paris stock exchange and is a component of the CAC 40 and Eurostoxx 50 indexes - Euroclear code 12 007.*

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