



Information

Sassenage, April 15, 2004

Press release

AXANE, Tomorrow's Energy Today

AXANE, an Air Liquide company specialized in hydrogen fuel cell systems, announces its new product line developed from its proprietary EVOPAC™ technology at the Hannover Fair, Germany from April 19 - 24, 2004 .

Based on its EVOPAC modular technological platform, **AXANE** a wholly owned subsidiary of the **Air Liquide** group, showcases the first prototype of its new line of 2,5 kW fuel cell products. Thanks to its know-how in the design, development and production of PEM fuel cells, combined with the expertise of **Air Liquide** accrued over 50 years in hydrogen logistics, **AXANE** is able to propose an integrated offer that responds to the requirements of the off grid-stand alone electrical supply.

Designed as a reliable solution for those market sectors for which no satisfactory energy supply is available, the solutions offered by **AXANE** include stationary generators either for stand alone sites in continuous operation or as emergency back-up, small multi purpose portable generator sets that can be used in many fields such as the emergency response sector, and integrated on board power generators for small utility vehicles.

The concept of combining the fuel cell and its fuel supply under a single integrated offer facilitates energy management and involves a single contact with an optimised 'plug & play' system approach.

Axane's innovative design features improved ergonomics for ease of operation and system maintenance to guarantee a high level of reliability.

Axane's new product line featuring three systems of 2.5 kW will be available second half 2004 and the first prototype is showcased at the **AXANE/Air Liquide booth - Hall 13 no.E38** at the Hannover Fair.

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About Axane

In less than 3 years, AXANE, a young French company specialized in the development of PEM type fuel cells created in May 2001 by the international Air Liquide Group, has successfully designed and developed a new generation of fuel cells that offers enhanced performance, increased reliability and simplified maintenance. This new fuel cell design, based on EVOPAC™ proprietary technology developed by AXANE, was successfully proven in the spring of 2002 during the Polar Ice Cap Mission conducted by Dr. Jean-Louis Etienne

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 5 kW), - Stationary applications (more than 2 kW), - Mobile applications for small hybrid vehicles (2 kW to 5 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, 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 31,900 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).

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Images available on request