



Information

26th of May 2004

Press release

A new range of energy supply systems on show at the POWER GEN in Barcelona (25th-27th May 2004)

AXANE, a subsidiary of the Air Liquide Group, presents its new range of ready-to-use, 2.5 kW fuel cells at its stand F 119.

Initially these systems have been designed for specific purposes for which there is currently no satisfactory energy solution: stationary generators designed for isolated sites (continuous use or back up), small portable generators for emergency operations, and mobile systems installed in vehicles for propulsion or for auxiliary equipment.

AXANE's know-how in terms of design, development and production of fuel cells, combined with the accrued expertise of **Air Liquide** in hydrogen logistics, allows it to propose an all-encompassing offer that is initially designed for the types of application mentioned above for which this fuel cell is perfectly adapted.

The concept of combining the fuel cell and the hydrogen logistics in an integrated offer provides a simple and efficient energy management solution, thanks to an easy to use "plug & play" system. Both the innovation in terms of design and the in-depth studies carried out to improve ergonomic features are characteristic of **AXANE** systems, which also guarantee easy maintenance and increased reliability.

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