



information



Paris, June 17, 2004

Press Release

***Air Liquide's ROLLER PAC fuel cell
rewarded once again***

Air Liquide subsidiary Axane won the fourth **Siemens Innovation Grand Prix** on June 17th. The prize was awarded by Raymond Barre, honorary jury chairman, and Philippe Carli, Chief Executive of Siemens France.

In less than three years, **Axane**, the French company set up by **Air Liquide** in May 2001 to specialize in fuel cell development, has designed and developed a **new generation of fuel cells** that **perform better and are more reliable and easier to maintain**.

The new cell design, a result of **Axane's Evopac technology**, was tested successfully in the spring of 2002 during the Banquise ("Ice Pack") Mission to the Arctic, led by Dr. Jean-Louis Étienne.

The Grand Prix, awarded to the top company among the 20 selected from a total of 156 entries, recognizes Air Liquide Group' innovation efforts and the advances achieved by Axane in the area of fuel cells.

Accepting the award along with Axane chief executive Patrick Sanglan, **François Jackow**, Air Liquide Group's Vice President R&D and Advanced Technologies, stated: ***"We're happy and proud to participate in major projects in the area of fuel cells in particular and hydrogen energy more generally; this lets us take on new technological challenges while contributing to protecting the environment and improving the quality of life of future generations."***

Present in 65 countries, Air Liquide supplies industrial and medical gases and related services. The Group offers innovative solutions based on constantly enhanced technologies. These solutions, which are consistent 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 over 31,900 employees. The Group has successfully developed a long-term relationship with its shareholders built on trust 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 billion euros, with sales outside France accounting for 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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