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First Healthcare acquisition in India

press release

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Air Liquide's healthcare business

Air Liquide's Healthcare World Business Line serves over **5,000 hospitals** and **300,000 patients** throughout the world. It provides **gases, hygiene products and medical equipment** to hospitals, as well as **homecare services**.

The Group's **2007 Healthcare WBL** revenue was **€1,592 million (63% outside France)**, with **7,200 employees**. In **China**, Air Liquide acquired home respiratory care specialist Celki International in 2007.

Medical respiratory equipment

Air Liquide complements its ventilation expertise in emergency services, operating theatres, intensive care units and homecare, **with its medical equipment companies**, Taema and Markos-Mefar, whose products are distributed in **over 90 countries**, including **Russia, China, India and Brazil**. This business contributes to the **development of new medical gases**.

India, an Asian giant with a population of over **one billion**, is experiencing rapid growth in its **health needs**. Through its subsidiary **Taema**, **Air Liquide has acquired Electrocare Systems**, a company specializing in medical equipment for respiratory care. Based in Chennai (Madras), in the south of India, Electrocare manufactures respirators for intensive care and anesthesia, as well as medical air generators. It is also a distributor-partner of Taema, an Air Liquide company that specializes in such equipment.

Electrocare is present in **1,500 Indian** public and private **hospitals** and is the **leader in intensive care in India**. With around one hundred employees and 22 technical and sales agencies, Electrocare, created in 1988, is recognized today for its quality of service, its professionalism and its contribution to the **development of intensive care in India**.

This acquisition gives Air Liquide access to leading-edge expertise in India and provides a solid basis for the continuing **development of its respiratory activities** (medical gases and homecare) **in this country**, both in hospitals and in the home.

Jean-Marc de Royere, member of the Air Liquide Executive Committee, in charge of the Healthcare World Business Line, declared: **"We look forward to contributing to the impressive modernization of India's health system. This first medical acquisition in India prepares the way for the development of other medical activities in the country and prolongs the thrust into emerging economies, one of the Group's growth drivers."**

*With more than **40,000 employees** in **75 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** and produces **air gases (oxygen, nitrogen, argon, rare gases...)** and many other gases including **hydrogen**. The Group contributes to the manufacturing of **many everyday products**: bubbles in sparkling beverages, protective atmosphere for packed foods, oxygen for hospitals and homecare patients, ultra-pure gases for the semiconductor industry, hydrogen to desulfurize fuels...*

*Air Liquide is committed to **sustainable development** and helps to **protect life**. Founded in 1902, Air Liquide 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 2007 totaled **11,801 million euros**, with sales outside France accounting for almost 80%. Air Liquide is listed on the Paris stock exchange and is a component of the CAC 40 and Eurostoxx 50 indices (ISIN code FR 0000120073).*