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Air Liquide introduces **ALIGAL** protective atmosphere gases to Chicago area food packaging industry

press release

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Air Liquide America Specialty Gases LLC (ALASG) has recently introduced its innovative **ALIGAL** line of single and mixed gases to the Chicago area. **ALIGAL** gases are designed for use as Modified Atmosphere Packaging (MAP) to benefit a wide variety of food products.

ALIGAL protective atmospheres help preserve the natural color and flavor of fresh food, by promoting low impurity levels and extending shelf life without chemical additives or preservatives. **ALIGAL** inhibits spoilage due to oxidation, bacteria and mold growth that usually occurs when food is exposed to air.

By preserving the freshness characteristics of foods, **ALIGAL** food-quality gases empower food processors and retailers to:

- Reduce product returns
- Gain greater flexibility in production scheduling
- Improve product consistency
- Control inventory more effectively and economically
- Distribute products over greater distances
- Improve opportunity for branding of value-added products

Produced in Air Liquide's Romeoville, Illinois facility near Chicago, **ALIGAL** gases meet all food packaging standards and are offered in dedicated single and multiple packs of high-pressure cylinders. Cylinders feature Air Liquide's exclusive **SCANDINA** cap that improves safety during cylinder transport and use, as well as valves that are factory shrink wrapped to provide tamper-evident safety seals. Chrome residual pressure valves prevent back flow into the cylinder to prevent accidental contamination.

Comments Guy Rowland, president of ALASG, "As a pioneer in the development of MAP gases for food applications, Air Liquide's **ALIGAL** products are already widely in use and popular throughout the world. Due to the proximity of so many major food processing operations, we consider the Chicago area a prime opportunity for Air Liquide to complete the deployment of **ALIGAL**."

ALIGAL gases are available in a range of blends appropriate to specific foods including baked goods, dry foods, fresh raw meats, processed meats, dairy products, produce and various prepared foods. They are colorless and odorless and comply with procedure controls and quality assurance throughout the production process. Strict filling and testing procedures assure a consistent and quality product. **ALIGAL** products can be easily integrated into a MAP system that includes packaging equipment and film.

Air Liquide America Specialty Gases LLC operates over 30 facilities throughout North America to provide fast, localized delivery by dedicated trucks. Mixture facilities are ISO 9001:2000 certified while laboratories are ISO/IEC 17025 accredited. A variety of Air Liquide products are available both directly and through Air Liquide's **ALNET** distributor network, and most are also available online.

To request a catalog, for more information or to order Air Liquide products and services: call 800-217-2688 toll-free (United States and Canada); visit www.us.airliquide.com or www.scottgas.com or www.specialtygas.ca; send email to solutions.center@airliquide.com (U.S.) or infor.Alc@airliquide.com (Canada).

Air Liquide America Specialty Gases LLC is the subsidiary of American Air Liquide Holdings, Inc. responsible for its packaged and specialty gas business in the U.S., providing gases and value-added services to a wide range of customers both directly and through its ALNET distribution network. Through its subsidiary businesses, American Air Liquide Holdings, Inc. offers industrial gases and related services to a variety of customers including those in large industry, industrial manufacturing, electronics, specialty and healthcare marketplaces.

***Air Liquide is the world leader in gases for industry, health and the environment, and is present in over 75 countries with 43,000 employees.** Oxygen, nitrogen, hydrogen and rare gases have been at the core of Air Liquide's activities since its creation in 1902. Using these molecules, Air Liquide continuously reinvents its business, anticipating the needs of current and future markets. The Group innovates to enable progress, to achieve dynamic growth and a consistent performance.*

*Air Liquide combines many products and technologies to develop valuable applications and services not only for its customers but also for society. **Innovative technologies** that curb polluting emissions, lower industry's energy use, recover and reuse natural resources or develop the energies of tomorrow, such as hydrogen, biofuels or photovoltaic energy... Oxygen for hospitals, homecare, fighting nosocomial infections...*

***A partner for the long term,** Air Liquide relies on employee commitment, customer trust and shareholder support to pursue its vision of sustainable, competitive growth. The **diversity** of Air Liquide's teams, businesses, markets and geographic presence provides a solid and sustainable base for its development and strengthens its ability to push back its own limits, conquer new territories and build its future.*

***Air Liquide explores the best that air can offer to preserve life, staying true to its sustainable development approach.** In 2008, the Group's revenues amounted to **€13.1 billion**, of which almost 80% were earned outside France. Air Liquide is listed on the Paris Euronext stock exchange (compartment A) and is a member of the CAC 40 and Dow Jones Euro Stoxx 50 indexes.*