

15 years of Air Liquide Electronics in Ottendorf-Okrilla

Ottendorf-Okrilla, 30.11.2021: Air Liquide Electronics GmbH, a specialist of industrial gas production, celebrates the 15th anniversary of its foundation. The company, based in Ottendorf-Okrilla, was founded in 2006 as a subsidiary of the Air Liquide Deutschland GmbH.

"Air Liquide took over the site from a German gas producer – also a specialist for industrial gases," Wolfgang Steiner explains the origin of the company. Steiner has been the Managing Director of the site since 2017 and is very satisfied when looking back at the company's history to date: "Even at the time of its founding, Air Liquide Electronics' focus was on services for the semiconductor industry. This area was successively advanced and expanded, so that we can count all major semiconductor companies in Germany and Austria among our customers by that time."

The customer locations include Dresden, Freiburg, Frankfurt (Oder) and Reutlingen. Not only the customer base, but also the workforce has grown continuously in the recent years. "Today we employ 100 people and our business has developed extremely positively. In the electronics sector we are number one in Germany and Europe," Steiner says.

Established partner for the semiconductor industry

Over the course of its 15 years in business, Air Liquide Electronics has become a firm partner in gas supply and related services – particularly for companies in the semiconductor cluster Dresden due to its regional location. "To ensure that we remain that reliable partner in the future, we are continuously working on improvements concerning our operational performance, quality and delivery reliability," Steiner says. And this commitment is rewarded by customers: Just this September, Air Liquide Electronics received a "Supplier Award" as the best supplier in the field of materials from a major semiconductor manufacturer.

Technological development is also high on the agenda of the supplier from Ottendorf-Okrilla. For example, not only existing gas supply systems at customers could be expanded, but a supply of liquid helium, a plant for the onsite generation of hydrogen or heat recovery at the production facilities were also made possible by innovative solutions.

Crisis-resistant thanks to global network

"Of course, we also had to deal with difficult situations. I'm thinking, for example, of material shortages for helium, the failure of a production site for hydrogen generation, a severe onset of winter with road closures and thus more difficult delivery conditions, and geopolitical challenges that made the procurement of raw materials more difficult," CEO Steiner sums up. However, thanks to the proximity to the customer and a close-knit network of experts in Germany, Europe and worldwide, these complications could be mastered.

Steiner sees two main pillars for the further development of the company: "On the one hand, we want to accompany the future growth and capacity expansions of our existing customers. Therefore, we are developing new solutions and invest in the respective customer sites," Steiner says. But also new market entrants, for example in Silicon Saxony, are part of the growth strategy.

Workforce as the key to success

The further development of the company can only succeed with the support of qualified employees. That's why Air Liquide Electronics is always looking for suitable staff.

The company is also involved in the working group for diversity management of the industry association Silicon Saxony e.V., "We currently employ people from eight different nations – Germany, Austria, Venezuela, France, Turkey, China, Bosnia Herzegovina and Greece. An international mix of employees – with many connections in the globally active Air Liquide Group."

About Air Liquide Electronics

Air Liquide Electronics GmbH is a subsidiary of Air Liquide Germany and has its office in Ottendorf-Okrilla, Saxony. The company is a specialist in the production and supply of air and bulk gases and specialty gases for the semiconductor industry as well as for equipment for gas and chemical supply systems for the semiconductor and photovoltaic industries in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Air Liquide Electronics is working with global corporations, medium-sized and smaller companies and research institutions. Current activities are focused on the development and supply of novel liquid specialty gases (precursors) and on hydrogen generation equipment and infrastructure systems. Air Liquide Electronics is a founding member of the high-tech network Silicon Saxony e. V..