



**For immediate release**

## Air Liquide Canada Launches New Line of Welding Consumables: BLUESHIELD™ High-durability, Extended-life Contact Tips.

**Montreal, July 31, 2005** – Air Liquide Canada Inc., a leader in industrial, specialty and medical gases, as well as welding equipment, today announced the launch of its new BLUESHIELD high-durability welding consumables product line.

According to Laurent Rimano, Air Liquide’s Product Manager – Welding Equipment and Stainless Steel, “These new high-quality contact tips last up to four times longer than standard copper tips. A unique manufacturing process ensures bore roundness and a smoother extruded surface finish for improved current transfer. “The distinctive copper-silver (CuAg) alloy composition results in increased electrical conductivity and improved current transfer and fewer bad start occurrences, when compared to plain copper tips. This is a real advantage in terms of productivity, especially with robotic applications.” Our extended-life tips, which can deliver higher performance, with pricing comparable to OEM consumables, are available for most welding torch brands and models.”

The product line includes a number of high-quality replacement parts, such as nozzles, liners, mixers and copper contact tips (DHP) for general-purpose applications. Also available are high-density chromium-zirconium (CrZr) alloy contact tips for stainless steel or FCAW welding applications.

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### ***About Air Liquide***

Air Liquide Canada, present in Canada since 1911, currently employs over 2,000 people in Canada. 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 32,000 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 2004 totaled 9,376 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)

[www.airliquide.ca](http://www.airliquide.ca)

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BLUESHIELD™ is a registered trademark of Air Liquide Canada Inc.