

Company History

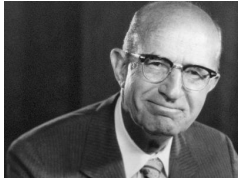
1940s to 2010s

Words like entrepreneurship, sales, finance, engineering, and technology are central to the history of Air Products. So are concepts like developing lasting relationships with our customers and communities based on an understanding of their needs, integrity in the way we do business, and a passion for exceeding expectations.

The early part of the Air Products story shaped an important chapter in the broader history of the industrial gas industry. In the decades that followed, the company owed much of its success to the know-how and innovative spirit of its employees—and the willingness to seize opportunities for growth.

1940s

Leonard Parker Pool founded his firm to meet the needs of the mid-level oxygen consumer. Although his idea to combine existing technology with a novel marketing concept was ingenious, immediate orders were not forthcoming. Frustrated but undaunted, Pool seized opportunity and instead, sold oxygen generators to support military efforts during World War II.



Leonard Parker Pool founds Air Products in 1940 in Detroit, Michigan, on a simple, but revolutionary, idea: the "on-site" concept of producing and selling industrial gases.



Air Products leases its first oxygen gas generator to a small Detroit steel company in 1941.

Caption: Grede foundries plant, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. An R-750 generator, typical of generators sold and leased in the 1940s and 1950s.



World War II diverts the company's attention to the design and manufacture of mobile generators to produce oxygen for use by the military in high-altitude flights.

Caption: 1st & 2nd aircraft repair units; two of many crews trained by Air Products in the operation and maintenance of its mobile oxygen generators.



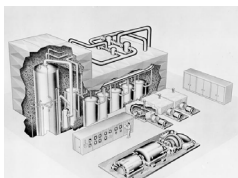
Air Products moves to Chattanooga, Tennessee and produces 240 oxygen generators for the armed forces and for "lend-lease" to foreign allies.

Caption: Mobile and stationary oxygen generators under construction in Chattanooga.



After the war, the company refocuses its sights on commercial markets by setting up operations near Allentown in Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley.

Caption: Emmaus, Pennsylvania, Plant 1



In 1945, Air Products secures a contract with Weirton Steel Company in West Virginia to lease three generators that produce six tons per day of oxygen.

Caption: Line drawing of Weirton tonnage plant.

1950s

In the post-war years, abundant oxygen was transforming the gas industry. Company founder, Leonard Parker Pool, was determined to compete in this “tonnage” gas market, and his plan proved as inventive as his onsite concept. Liquid hydrogen, a substance considered a laboratory curiosity, became an in-demand product in the later years of the decade, offering the company a new opportunity.



In support of America’s emerging missile and space program, Air Products builds plants capable of producing tonnage quantities of liquid oxygen and nitrogen.

Caption: The Santa Susana Plant, featuring four 75-ton-per-day oxygen generators. It was, as Leonard Pool told his employees, “the largest single contract in [the company’s] history.”



With the launch of Sputnik in 1957, Air Products wins the competition to make a new rocket propellant—liquid hydrogen—for the Air Force and later NASA at the legendary “three bears” plants.

Caption: Aerial view of the Air Force tonnage liquid hydrogen facility at West Palm Beach, Florida. Papa Bear is in the foreground, while Mama bear and storage tanks are visible in the distance.



The marketing concept known as “piggy-backing” is introduced—building extra gas liquefaction capacity into the on-site plants.

Caption: Spencer Chemical 200-ton-per-day oxygen-nitrogen plant, Vicksburg, Mississippi, U.S.



In 1957, Air Products enters the international market for industrial gases through Air Products (Great Britain), Ltd., a joint venture with the Butterley Company.

Caption: Members of the board of directors leaving Coombe House, New Maiden, head office of APL in UK.

1960s

Many of the company's offerings, including oxygen and hydrogen, are building-block chemicals. Air Products took advantage and diversified into a wide range of process intermediate chemicals. Elsewhere, engineering talent created a new opportunity in helium that led to a worldwide production and supply leadership position.



In 1960, company founder Leonard Pool is featured on the cover of *Business Week*.

Caption: Pool with successor Ed Donley



In 1961, Air Products begins manufacturing chemicals through a joint venture to convert refinery by-products into oxo-alcohols for use in producing plasticizers.

Caption: Air Products' Calvert City, Kentucky plant—produces a wide range of industrial and specialty chemicals, including water-based emulsion polymers and surfactants.



In 1962, the company acquires the Houdry Process Company and its subsidiary the Catalytic Construction Company.

Caption: The Houdry Laboratory in Linwood, Pennsylvania.



Air Products stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange for the first time in 1962 as its sales pass \$100 million.



In the mid-60s, the company widens its global presence with subsidiaries in Belgium, West Germany, and South Africa.

Caption: Kempton Park, South Africa



The company's position in chemicals expands with the 1969 acquisition of Escambia Chemical Corporation, a U.S. company in Pensacola, Florida.

Caption: Pensacola, Florida

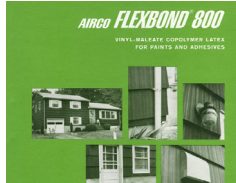


Air Products develops a process for the recovery of helium from natural gas, along with the process to liquefy natural gas and the heat exchanger for compressing it.

Caption: Liberal, Texas

1970s

Although the company's earliest success was based on oxygen supply, its nitrogen applications increased in importance. The company also further invested in chemicals, making its entree into the electronics industry. By 1978, Air Products had become a *Fortune 500* company on the strength of \$1 billion in sales.



Business further expands in the '70s with the acquisition of the chemicals and plastics business of Airco, Inc. Over the next 40 years, the polymer emulsions business becomes the U.S. market leader, generating nearly \$1 billion in revenues.

Caption: Product literature



Early Cryo-Quick food freezing units helped revolutionize the American restaurant industry, enabling centralized food processing to ensure consistency.

Caption: Freezing hamburger patties for McDonald's.



In 1975, Air Products is awarded a 12-year \$287 million contract from NASA to supply liquid hydrogen to the United States' new space shuttle program.



By 1978, the company makes the *Fortune 500* listing on the strength of \$1 billion in sales.

1980s

During the decade, the company further grew its global position through strategic equity positions and strengthened its chemical and electronics businesses. It also entered its second stage of diversification into environmental and energy markets, focusing primarily on the emerging, high-temperature technology of cogeneration, trash-to-steam, and flue-gas desulfurization, as well as building a leading refinery hydrogen supply position.



Air Products undertakes a strategic global expansion by taking minority positions in industrial gas companies in Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Hong Kong, China, Thailand, Taiwan, and Mexico.



Air Products significantly expands the company's emerging epoxy curing agents business and gains a manufacturing foothold in Europe.

Caption: Epoxy manufacturing plant in Isehara, Japan.



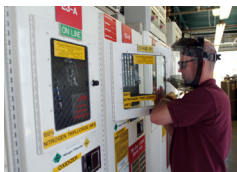
In 1982, Air Products acquires Stearns-Roger Corporation, a U.S. leading engineering and construction services company based in Denver, Colorado.

Caption: Stearns-Roger Corporation



In the mid-80s, the company forms an environmental and energy systems business to focus on power generation, air pollution control, and energy recovery from solid waste.

Caption: Stockton, California, U.S. cogeneration facility.



MEGASYS® Total Gas Management Services, an industry-first offering, is developed in response to customers who want more than just bulk and specialty gas. MEGASYS services provide a deeper understanding of our customer's processes and the technology roadmap.

Caption: Air Products employee monitoring a gas cabinet at one of our MEGASYS locations.



The company acquires the J.C. Schumacher Company, a supplier of high-purity chemicals for semiconductors, giving it a stronger foothold in electronic materials.



Spurred by new clean air regulations, increased use of high-sulfur crude oils, and larger demands for transportation fuels, the company forms a joint venture with KTI (now Technip) to build hydrogen processing equipment for oil refiners and becomes the leading global supplier of refinery hydrogen.

Caption: Our hydrogen production facility in Port Arthur, Texas, U.S.

1990s

Global expansion continued, as did the company's dedication to the electronics industry. Earlier development work with the U.S. government paid dividends, catapulting the company's electronics business to a worldwide leadership position.



In the 1990s, Air Products acquires a 49 percent interest in Sapio in Italy, and completes the acquisition of Carbueros Metálicos in Spain and Korea Industrial Gas.

Caption: Carbueros plant, Tres Cantos (Madrid).



In Asia, the company forms joint ventures with Japanese companies Daido Hoxan and Showa Denko to serve the growing electronics industry.

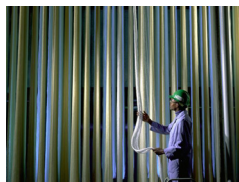


Air Products establishes a new company in Singapore; forms a joint venture in Indonesia; and opens new facilities at Tsukuba, Japan, to supply products to the Asian semiconductor market.



Nitrogen trifluoride, a material originally developed for laser weaponry in the 1960s, becomes the pre-eminent chamber cleaning material for the semiconductor industry. Air Products becomes the worldwide leader in production of this material.

Caption: Our nitrogen trifluoride manufacturing facility in Hometown, Pennsylvania, U.S.



The company acquires Permea, Inc., a leading supplier of membrane and adsorption gas separation systems.

Caption: Membrane fibers are manufactured at our Permea facility in St. Louis, Missouri for our noncryogenic gas supply systems.

2000s

The company made additional strides toward becoming one of the world's leading integrated industrial gas companies and continues growing other business segments by leveraging existing capabilities and expertise and launching several game-changing technologies in the marketplace.



The company strengthens its worldwide leadership in natural gas liquefaction process technology by introducing a debottlenecking process that enables as much as a 60 percent capacity increase in production without sacrificing existing efficiency.

Caption: A main cryogenic heat exchanger, which is part of Air Products' AP-X® liquefaction process technology.



A series of game-changing gas cylinder innovations are introduced to the global marketplace.



August 2005, Air Products' industrial gas complex in New Orleans, Louisiana, is inundated with more than 8 feet of water after Hurricane Katrina makes landfall. After ensuring its employees safety, the company begins draining the facility and working to restore operations. It achieves the milestone of "substantial operations" in just over two months to help relieve a constrained liquid hydrogen market.



In 2006, Air Products builds on its surface science expertise by acquiring Tomah³ Products.

Caption: Industrial and institutional cleaning.



In 2007, Air Products becomes the leading industrial gas supplier in central Europe by acquiring the industrial gas business of BOC Gazy.

2010s

Air Products' people bring their deep understanding and applications expertise to the industries and markets we serve all over the world. It's this combination of perspective and breadth that allows them to apply solutions to some of the world's most pressing energy, environmental, and emerging market needs. It's this "Air Products difference" that will continue to drive profitable growth and sustainability for our customers and our company in the decades to come.



In China, Air Products lands its two largest ASU orders ever with Shaanxi Future Energy Chemical Co., Ltd., (12,000 TPD of oxygen) and Shanxi Lu'An Mining (Group) Co., Ltd., (10,000 TPD of oxygen). These new ASUs are being driven by large-scale coal gasification and petroleum projects throughout China.



Air Products acquires DuPont's interest in DuPont Air Products NanoMaterials LLC, the two companies' 50-50 joint venture serving the global semiconductor and wafer polishing industries.



In 2012, Air Products acquired a controlling stake in INDURA, which at the time was the largest independent industrial gas company in South America. The acquisition brought new sales and gave the company a significant presence in a fourth region of the world.



Air Products acquires EPCO Carbon Dioxide Products, Inc., and adds liquid CO₂ to its North American offerings through EPCO's 12 CO₂ purification and liquefaction plants. Liquid CO₂, which Air Products already offers in its other geographic regions around the world, is an important product in markets Air Products currently serves with other merchant industrial gases including the food, beverage, chemical, pharmaceutical, oil field services and metals fabrication markets.

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