Hydrogen Council announces leadership change: original founder Air Liquide passes reins to new co-chair Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd.

Original Founder Air Liquide Passes Reins To New Co-Chair Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd.

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The Hydrogen Council is announcing an important change of leadership, as Mr. Yoshinori Kanehana, Chairman of Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd. (Kawasaki), becomes a new co-chair of the Council along with Tom Linebarger. Kawasaki is one of the founding members of the Council and a key player in the hydrogen sector advocating for its role in accelerating the decarbonisation of the industry. An innovator and pioneer within the industry, Kawasaki has been leading HySTRA (Co2-free Hydrogen Energy Supply Chain Technology Research Association) and working with its partners on the realisation of the international shipping of liquefied hydrogen, through the operation of the world's first liquefied hydrogen carrier SUISO FRONTIER between Australia and Japan.

Mr. Yoshinori Kanehana says, “I am honored to be appointed as a new Board member and co-chair. We are now at a critical stage in our journey from the demonstration to the commercial stage for the global deployment of hydrogen. It is essential to bring together the knowledge and expertise of the various members of the Council towards our common objectives. Amidst the unprecedented challenges, let me assert my firm belief that the hydrogen industry will rapidly expand and mature by strengthening partnerships with stakeholders including key industries, policy makers and investors. I look forward to working together towards the realization of a global hydrogen economy.”

The Council would like to acknowledge the strong leadership of outgoing co-chair Mr. Benoît Potier, CEO and Chairman of Air Liquide, who has thoughtfully guided members over the last five years. It was his leadership that led to the formation of the Council and under his direction that it has helped elevate hydrogen’s global profile as a viable solution. As Mr. Potier steps away from his co-chair role, he will remain an active Board Member and play an important part in connecting with leaders in Europe on behalf of the Council.

“Mr. Benoit Potier, CEO and Chairman of Air Liquide. Mr. Kanehana will promote the Council’s activities with fellow Council co-chair Mr. Tom Linebarger, Chairman and CEO of Cummins Inc., who began his two-year term in July of 2021.

“I offer my sincere congratulations to Yoshinori as he takes on this new role in hydrogen leadership. I look forward to working closely with him and KHI to further the Council’s vision, which has been deeply influenced by Benoît and Air Liquide, and making meaningful progress together in the journey to global decarbonization,” says Mr. Tom Linebarger, Chairman and CEO, Cummins Inc.

Since its creation, the Hydrogen Council has witnessed major changes in the development of the hydrogen economy. The unprecedented growth of the Council’s membership in the past year is the result of the important shift in a global mindset and constant work from the Council’s members to define a united vision and long-term ambition for hydrogen to foster the decarbonisation of our economies.