



# Independent Assurance Report

## Introduction

We have been engaged by the Executive Board of Linde AG (further referred to as 'Linde') to provide limited assurance on the 2009 data for the indicators listed in the section 'Context and scope' together with the related explanatory information in the publication: 'Corporate Responsibility Report 2010.' (further referred to as 'The Report'). The Executive Board of Linde is responsible for preparing The Report, including the identification of stakeholders and material issues. Our responsibility is to provide an assurance report on the 2009 data for the indicators listed in the section 'Context and scope' together with the related explanatory information in The Report.

## Context and scope

Our engagement was designed to provide readers of The Report with limited assurance on whether the 2009 data for the indicators listed in the table below together with the related explanatory information are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Sustainability Reporting Guidelines (G3) of the Global Reporting Initiative together with internal reporting criteria as published on Linde's website.

<b>CO<sub>2</sub> emissions</b>	<b>Direct CO<sub>2</sub> emissions</b>
	<b>Indirect CO<sub>2</sub> emissions</b>
	<b>Direct CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from HyCO plants</b>
	<b>Indirect CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from air separation plants</b>
<b>Consumption of energy</b>	<b>Consumption of electricity</b>
	<b>Electricity consumption by air separation plants</b>
	<b>Consumption of natural gas</b>
	<b>Natural gas consumption by HyCO plants</b>
<b>Consumption of water</b>	<b>Consumption of water</b>
	<b>Consumption of drinking water</b>
	<b>Consumption of industrial and process water</b>
	<b>Water consumption by air separation plants</b>
<b>Safety</b>	<b>Number of workplace accidents per million hours worked by Linde employees (Lost Time Injury Rate-LTIR)</b>

Procedures performed to obtain a limited level of assurance are aimed at determining the plausibility of information and are less extensive than those for a reasonable level of assurance.



### Reporting criteria

Linde applies the Sustainability Reporting Guidelines (G3) of the Global Reporting Initiative together with its internal reporting criteria for reporting on sustainability as described on Linde's website. We believe that these criteria are suitable in view of the purpose of our assurance engagement.

### Assurance standards

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the International Standard for Assurance Engagements (ISAE) 3000: Assurance Engagements other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information, issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. This Standard requires, amongst others, that the assurance team possesses the specific knowledge, skills and professional competencies needed to understand and review sustainability information, and that they comply with the requirements of the Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants from the International Federation of Accountants to ensure their independence.

### Work undertaken

Our procedures included the following:

- Performing a media analysis and internet search to obtain information on relevant sustainability issues for Linde in the reporting period;
- Reviewing the design and existence of the systems and processes for data management, internal control and processing of the selected indicators as defined under Context and scope at corporate, regional and local level by:
  - Interviewing staff at corporate level responsible for the collection, analysis and reporting of the data
  - Visiting four selected regional offices in Europe, Middle East, Asia and Australia
  - Visiting five selected production sites in Germany, Romania, Hungary, China and Australia;
- Performing analytical review procedures of the data reported by the production sites under operational control of Linde;
- Reviewing data trends and discussions with management thereto.

As part of our assurance procedures we discussed changes to the draft reports with Linde and reviewed the final version of The Report to ensure that it reflected our findings.

### Our conclusion

Based on our procedures performed, nothing came to our attention to indicate that the data for the indicators as defined under Context and scope together with the related explanatory information are not prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Sustainability Reporting Guidelines (G3) of the Global Reporting Initiative together with internal reporting criteria as published on Linde's website.

### Emphasis of matter

Without qualifying our opinion above, we draw attention to the paragraph 'Health, Safety, Environment (HSE) indicators' under Fast facts, which explains the uncertainty related to the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, consumption of energy and consumption of water data.

Amstelveen, 2 November 2010

KPMG Sustainability  
W.J. Bartels