

Form 5500 Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.	OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089 2021 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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Part I	Annual Report Identification Information
For calendar plan year 2021 or fiscal plan year beginning <u>01/01/2021</u> and ending <u>12/31/2021</u>	
A This return/report is for:	☐ a multiemployer plan ☐ a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must attach a list of participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.) ☒ a single-employer plan ☐ a DFE (specify) _____
B This return/report is:	☐ the first return/report ☐ the final return/report ☐ an amended return/report ☐ a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)
C If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here.	▶ ☒
D Check box if filing under:	☒ Form 5558 ☐ automatic extension ☐ the DFVC program ☐ special extension (enter description)
E If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here.	▶ ☐

Part II	Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information				
1a Name of plan <u>LINDE RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN</u>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center;"><u>334</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">1c Effective date of plan <u>07/01/1992</u></td> </tr> </table>	1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	<u>334</u>	1c Effective date of plan <u>07/01/1992</u>	
1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	<u>334</u>				
1c Effective date of plan <u>07/01/1992</u>					
2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan) Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box) City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions) <u>LINDE INC.</u> <u>10 RIVERVIEW DRIVE</u> <u>DANBURY, CT 06810-6268</u>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>06-1249050</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number <u>203-837-2075</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2d Business code (see instructions) <u>325100</u></td> </tr> </table>	2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>06-1249050</u>	2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number <u>203-837-2075</u>	2d Business code (see instructions) <u>325100</u>	
2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>06-1249050</u>					
2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number <u>203-837-2075</u>					
2d Business code (see instructions) <u>325100</u>					

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.

Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	09/09/2022	KRISTEN PUTNAM
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 5500.

Form 5500 (2021)
v. 210624

3a Plan administrator's name and address ☒ Same as Plan Sponsor		3b Administrator's EIN	
		3c Administrator's telephone number	
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report: a Sponsor's name c Plan Name		4b EIN 4d PN	
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year		5	15624
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1) , 6a(2) , 6b , 6c , and 6d).			
a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year.....		6a(1)	11768
a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year		6a(2)	10207
b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits.....		6b	308
c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits		6c	5122
d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c		6d	15637
e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits.		6e	62
f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e		6f	15699
g Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)		6g	15450
h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested		6h	327
7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item).....		7	
8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions: 2A 2E 2F 2G 2J 2K 2O 2R 2S 2T 3H			
b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:			
9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☒ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor		9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☒ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor	
10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)			
a Pension Schedules (1) ☒ R (Retirement Plan Information) (2) ☐ MB (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary (3) ☐ SB (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary		b General Schedules (1) ☒ H (Financial Information) (2) ☐ I (Financial Information – Small Plan) (3) ☒ <u>1</u> A (Insurance Information) (4) ☒ C (Service Provider Information) (5) ☒ D (DFE/Participating Plan Information) (6) ☐ G (Financial Transaction Schedules)	

Part III Form M-1 Compliance Information (to be completed by welfare benefit plans)

11a If the plan provides welfare benefits, was the plan subject to the Form M-1 filing requirements during the plan year? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

If "Yes" is checked, complete lines 11b and 11c.

11b Is the plan currently in compliance with the Form M-1 filing requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2021 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2021 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code _____

SCHEDULE A (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Insurance Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500. ▶ Insurance companies are required to provide the information pursuant to ERISA section 103(a)(2).	OMB No. 1210-0110 2021 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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For calendar plan year 2021 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2021 and ending 12/31/2021	
A Name of plan LINDE RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 334
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 LINDE INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 06-1249050

Part I	Information Concerning Insurance Contract Coverage, Fees, and Commissions	Provide information for each contract on a separate Schedule A. Individual contracts grouped as a unit in Parts II and III can be reported on a single Schedule A.
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1 Coverage Information:

(a) Name of insurance carrier
THE PRUDENTIAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA

(b) EIN	(c) NAIC code	(d) Contract or identification number	(e) Approximate number of persons covered at end of policy or contract year	Policy or contract year	
				(f) From	(g) To
22-1211670	68241	064254	3965	01/01/2021	12/31/2021

2 Insurance fee and commission information. Enter the total fees and total commissions paid. List in line 3 the agents, brokers, and other persons in descending order of the amount paid.

(a) Total amount of commissions paid	(b) Total amount of fees paid

3 Persons receiving commissions and fees. (Complete as many entries as needed to report all persons).

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

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(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

Part II Investment and Annuity Contract Information

Where individual contracts are provided, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

4	Current value of plan's interest under this contract in the general account at year end	4																					
5	Current value of plan's interest under this contract in separate accounts at year end.....	5	0																				
6	Contracts With Allocated Funds:																						
a	State the basis of premium rates ▶																						
b	Premiums paid to carrier	6b																					
c	Premiums due but unpaid at the end of the year	6c																					
d	If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, enter amount. Specify nature of costs ▶	6d																					
e	Type of contract: (1) ☐ individual policies (2) ☐ group deferred annuity (3) ☐ other (specify) ▶																						
f	If contract purchased, in whole or in part, to distribute benefits from a terminating plan, check here ▶ ☐																						
7	Contracts With Unallocated Funds (Do not include portions of these contracts maintained in separate accounts)																						
a	Type of contract: (1) ☐ deposit administration (2) ☐ immediate participation guarantee (3) ☐ guaranteed investment (4) ☒ other ▶ STABLE VALUE																						
b	Balance at the end of the previous year	7b	300187174																				
c	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 5%;">(1) Contributions deposited during the year</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">7c(1)</td> <td style="width: 75%; text-align: right;">110570687</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(2) Dividends and credits.....</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7c(2)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(3) Interest credited during the year.....</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7c(3)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4697736</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(4) Transferred from separate account</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7c(4)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(5) Other (specify below)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7c(5)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-9590658</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="height: 40px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>(6) Total additions</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7c(6)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">105677765</td> </tr> </table>	(1) Contributions deposited during the year	7c(1)	110570687	(2) Dividends and credits.....	7c(2)	0	(3) Interest credited during the year.....	7c(3)	4697736	(4) Transferred from separate account	7c(4)	0	(5) Other (specify below)	7c(5)	-9590658				(6) Total additions	7c(6)	105677765	
(1) Contributions deposited during the year	7c(1)	110570687																					
(2) Dividends and credits.....	7c(2)	0																					
(3) Interest credited during the year.....	7c(3)	4697736																					
(4) Transferred from separate account	7c(4)	0																					
(5) Other (specify below)	7c(5)	-9590658																					
(6) Total additions	7c(6)	105677765																					
d	Total of balance and additions (add lines 7b and 7c(6))	7d	405864939																				
e	Deductions: <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 5%;">(1) Disbursed from fund to pay benefits or purchase annuities during year</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">7e(1)</td> <td style="width: 75%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>(2) Administration charge made by carrier.....</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7e(2)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>(3) Transferred to separate account</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7e(3)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>(4) Other (specify below)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7e(4)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">118556034</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="height: 40px;">▶ CASH</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(5) Total deductions</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7e(5)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">118556034</td> </tr> </table>	(1) Disbursed from fund to pay benefits or purchase annuities during year	7e(1)		(2) Administration charge made by carrier.....	7e(2)		(3) Transferred to separate account	7e(3)		(4) Other (specify below)	7e(4)	118556034	▶ CASH			(5) Total deductions	7e(5)	118556034				
(1) Disbursed from fund to pay benefits or purchase annuities during year	7e(1)																						
(2) Administration charge made by carrier.....	7e(2)																						
(3) Transferred to separate account	7e(3)																						
(4) Other (specify below)	7e(4)	118556034																					
▶ CASH																							
(5) Total deductions	7e(5)	118556034																					
f	Balance at the end of the current year (subtract line 7e(5) from line 7d)	7f	287308905																				

Part III Welfare Benefit Contract Information

If more than one contract covers the same group of employees of the same employer(s) or members of the same employee organizations(s), the information may be combined for reporting purposes if such contracts are experience-rated as a unit. Where contracts cover individual employees, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

8 Benefit and contract type (check all applicable boxes)

- a** ☐ Health (other than dental or vision)
b ☐ Dental
c ☐ Vision
d ☐ Life insurance
e ☐ Temporary disability (accident and sickness)
f ☐ Long-term disability
g ☐ Supplemental unemployment
h ☐ Prescription drug
i ☐ Stop loss (large deductible)
j ☐ HMO contract
k ☐ PPO contract
l ☐ Indemnity contract
m ☐ Other (specify) ▶

9 Experience-rated contracts:

a Premiums: (1) Amount received	9a(1)		
(2) Increase (decrease) in amount due but unpaid	9a(2)		
(3) Increase (decrease) in unearned premium reserve	9a(3)		
(4) Earned ((1) + (2) - (3))		9a(4)	0
b Benefit charges (1) Claims paid	9b(1)		
(2) Increase (decrease) in claim reserves	9b(2)		
(3) Incurred claims (add (1) and (2))		9b(3)	0
(4) Claims charged		9b(4)	
c Remainder of premium: (1) Retention charges (on an accrual basis) --			
(A) Commissions	9c(1)(A)		
(B) Administrative service or other fees	9c(1)(B)		
(C) Other specific acquisition costs	9c(1)(C)		
(D) Other expenses	9c(1)(D)		
(E) Taxes	9c(1)(E)		
(F) Charges for risks or other contingencies	9c(1)(F)		
(G) Other retention charges	9c(1)(G)		
(H) Total retention		9c(1)(H)	0
(2) Dividends or retroactive rate refunds. (These amounts were ☐ paid in cash, or ☐ credited.)		9c(2)	
d Status of policyholder reserves at end of year: (1) Amount held to provide benefits after retirement		9d(1)	
(2) Claim reserves		9d(2)	
(3) Other reserves		9d(3)	
e Dividends or retroactive rate refunds due. (Do not include amount entered in line 9c(2).)		9e	

10 Nonexperience-rated contracts:

a Total premiums or subscription charges paid to carrier	10a	
b If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, other than reported in Part I, line 2 above, report amount. Specify nature of costs.	10b	

Part IV Provision of Information

11 Did the insurance company fail to provide any information necessary to complete Schedule A? ☐ Yes ☒ No

12 If the answer to line 11 is "Yes," specify the information not provided. ▶

SCHEDULE C (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Service Provider Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110
		2021
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2021 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2021 and ending 12/31/2021		
A Name of plan LINDE RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	334
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 LINDE INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 06-1249050	

Part I	Service Provider Information (see instructions)
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You must complete this Part, in accordance with the instructions, to report the information required for **each person** who received, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of monetary value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or the person's position with the plan during the plan year. If a person received **only** eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures, you are required to answer line 1 but are not required to include that person when completing the remainder of this Part.

1 Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation

- a** Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether you are excluding a person from the remainder of this Part because they received only eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures (see instructions for definitions and conditions)..... ☒ Yes ☐ No
- b** If you answered line 1a "Yes," enter the name and EIN or address of each person providing the required disclosures for the service providers who received only eligible indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed (see instructions).

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation
STATE STREET GLOBAL ADVISORS TRUST
04-3445894

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation
VANGUARD
23-1945930

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation
BLACK ROCK INSTITUTIONAL TRUST CO
94-3112180

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation
NORTHERN TRUST CORPORATION
36-2723087

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

PRUDENTIAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF AME

22-1211670

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

PRUDENTIAL TRUST CO.

23-6994310

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

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2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL

04-2467786

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
71 15 21 37 38 50 64 65	NONE	663672	Yes ☒ No ☐	Yes ☒ No ☐	0	Yes ☒ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

INSTITUTIONAL INVESTMENT CONSULTING

81-0635433

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
16 50 27	NONE	76125	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

REA & ASSOCIATES

34-1310124

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
16 10 50	NONE	65125	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

GROOM LAW GROUP

52-1219029

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
29 50	NONE	51108	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

COHNREZNICK

22-1478099

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
16 50 10	NONE	41220	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3. If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received \$1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

Part II Service Providers Who Fail or Refuse to Provide Information

4 Provide, to the extent possible, the following information for each service provider who failed or refused to provide the information necessary to complete this Schedule.

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

Part III Termination Information on Accountants and Enrolled Actuaries (see instructions)
(complete as many entries as needed)

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

SCHEDULE D (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration	DFE/Participating Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ► File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 2021 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2021 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2021 and ending 12/31/2021

A Name of plan <u>LINDE RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ►	<u>334</u>
C Plan or DFE sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>LINDE INC.</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>06-1249050</u>	

Part I	Information on interests in MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs (to be completed by plans and DFEs) (Complete as many entries as needed to report all interests in DFEs)
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: PRU CORE INTERMEDIATE BOND FD

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): PRUDENTIAL TRUST CO.

c EIN-PN <u>23-6994310-214</u>	d Entity code <u>C</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>287308905</u>
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: NT COLLECTIVE S&P 500 INDEX FUND

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): NORTHERN TRUST CORPORATION

c EIN-PN <u>45-6138589-002</u>	d Entity code <u>C</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>267293716</u>
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: BTC LIFEPAATH 2025 J

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): BLACKROCK INSTITUTIONAL TRUST COMPANY

c EIN-PN <u>82-4453340-001</u>	d Entity code <u>C</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>255353309</u>
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: BTC LIFEPAATH 2030 J

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): BLACKROCK INSTITUTIONAL TRUST COMPANY

c EIN-PN <u>82-4462201-001</u>	d Entity code <u>C</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>246142176</u>
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: BTC LIFEPAATH 2035 J

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): BLACKROCK INSTITUTIONAL TRUST COMPANY

c EIN-PN <u>82-4480429-001</u>	d Entity code <u>C</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>204454780</u>
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: BTC LIFEPAATH RET J

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): BLACKROCK INSTITUTIONAL TRUST COMPANY

c EIN-PN <u>82-4590893-001</u>	d Entity code <u>C</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>173913115</u>
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: NT COLLECTIVE RUSSELL 1000 GROWTH I

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): NORTHERN TRUST CORPORATION

c EIN-PN <u>45-6138589-109</u>	d Entity code <u>C</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>136123167</u>
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: BTC LIFEPATH 2040 J		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): BLACKROCK INSTITUTIONAL TRUST COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 82-4496468-001	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 131540649
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: BTC LIFEPATH 2045 J		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): BLACKROCK INSTITUTIONAL TRUST COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 82-4514357-001	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 94165223
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: RUSSELL SMALL/MID CAP INDEX NL SF C		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): STATE STREET GLOBAL ADVISORS TRUST COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 04-3445894-461	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 78324130
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: BTC LIFEPATH 2050 J		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): BLACKROCK INSTITUTIONAL TRUST COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 82-4532215-001	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 75506793
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: BTC LIFEPATH 2055 J		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): BLACKROCK INSTITUTIONAL TRUST COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 82-4552063-001	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 43281921
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: NT COLLECTIVE RUSSELL 1000 VALUE IN		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): NORTHERN TRUST CORPORATION		
c EIN-PN 45-6138589-108	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 40199465
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: NORTHERN TRUST EAFE INDEX FUND - DC		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): NORTHERN TRUST CORPORATION		
c EIN-PN 45-6138589-111	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 32363952
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: NT COLLECTIVE EMERGING MARKETS INDE		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): NORTHERN TRUST CORPORATION		
c EIN-PN 45-6138589-230	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 14779969
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: BTC LIFEPATH 2060 J		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): BLACKROCK INSTITUTIONAL TRUST COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 82-4575448-001	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 12760176
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: BTC LIFEPATH 2065 J		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): BLACKROCK INSTITUTIONAL TRUST COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 84-1944762-001	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 1141323

Part II Information on Participating Plans (to be completed by DFEs)

(Complete as many entries as needed to report all participating plans)

a Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Financial Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ► File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 2021 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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For calendar plan year 2021 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2021 and ending 12/31/2021		
A Name of plan LINDE RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ►	334
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 LINDE INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 06-1249050	

Part I	Asset and Liability Statement
---------------	--------------------------------------

1 Current value of plan assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the plan year. Combine the value of plan assets held in more than one trust. Report the value of the plan's interest in a commingled fund containing the assets of more than one plan on a line-by-line basis unless the value is reportable on lines 1c(9) through 1c(14). Do not enter the value of that portion of an insurance contract which guarantees, during this plan year, to pay a specific dollar benefit at a future date. **Round off amounts to the nearest dollar.** MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 1b(1), 1b(2), 1c(8), 1g, 1h, and 1i. CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 1d and 1e. See instructions.

Assets		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
a Total noninterest-bearing cash.....	1a	1121934	907387
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	933255	331495
(2) Participant contributions.....	1b(2)	1731759	0
(3) Other	1b(3)	364536538	0
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)	0	0
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)		
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)		
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)		
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)		
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)		
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)		
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)		
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)		
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	38684320	40640878
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts.....	1c(9)	1547157851	2094652769
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)		
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts.....	1c(11)		
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)		
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)	92185784	77633356
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts).....	1c(14)		
(15) Other.....	1c(15)	43855435	60606530

		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
1d	Employer-related investments:		
(1)	Employer securities.....	1d(1) 493422142	610275200
(2)	Employer real property.....	1d(2)	
e	Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e	
f	Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f 2583629018	2885047615
Liabilities			
g	Benefit claims payable	1g 0	0
h	Operating payables	1h 8303	0
i	Acquisition indebtedness.....	1i 0	0
j	Other liabilities.....	1j 88556	12409
k	Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j)	1k 96859	12409
Net Assets			
l	Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l 2583532159	2885035206

Part II Income and Expense Statement

2 Plan income, expenses, and changes in net assets for the year. Include all income and expenses of the plan, including any trust(s) or separately maintained fund(s) and any payments/receipts to/from insurance carriers. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 2a, 2b(1)(E), 2e, 2f, and 2g.

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
a	Contributions:		
(1)	Received or receivable in cash from: (A) Employers	2a(1)(A) 37388581	
	(B) Participants	2a(1)(B) 78476538	
	(C) Others (including rollovers).....	2a(1)(C) 6600916	
(2)	Noncash contributions.....	2a(2)	
(3)	Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A), (B), (C), and line 2a(2)	2a(3)	122466035
b	Earnings on investments:		
(1)	Interest:		
	(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit).....	2b(1)(A)	
	(B) U.S. Government securities	2b(1)(B)	
	(C) Corporate debt instruments	2b(1)(C)	
	(D) Loans (other than to participants)	2b(1)(D)	
	(E) Participant loans.....	2b(1)(E) 2051046	
	(F) Other	2b(1)(F) 4698784	
	(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F).....	2b(1)(G)	6749830
(2)	Dividends: (A) Preferred stock.....	2b(2)(A)	
	(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B) 7490131	
	(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds).....	2b(2)(C) 1913687	
	(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A), (B), and (C)	2b(2)(D)	9403818
(3)	Rents	2b(3)	
(4)	Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: (A) Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A) 192576053	
	(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions).....	2b(4)(B) 172396736	
	(C) Subtract line 2b(4)(B) from line 2b(4)(A) and enter result	2b(4)(C)	20179317
(5)	Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: (A) Real estate	2b(5)(A)	
	(B) Other	2b(5)(B) 133082127	
	(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines 2b(5)(A) and (B)	2b(5)(C)	133082127

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts.....	2b(6)		237939266
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts.....	2b(7)		
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts.....	2b(8)		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities.....	2b(9)		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds).....	2b(10)		-3596328
c Other income.....	2c		6893243
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	2d		533117308
Expenses			
e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers.....	2e(1)	231083288	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits.....	2e(2)		
(3) Other.....	2e(3)		
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines 2e(1) through (3).....	2e(4)		231083288
f Corrective distributions (see instructions).....	2f		75223
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions).....	2g		91017
h Interest expense.....	2h		
i Administrative expenses: (1) Professional fees.....	2i(1)	224947	
(2) Contract administrator fees.....	2i(2)	673468	
(3) Investment advisory and management fees.....	2i(3)	2539	
(4) Other.....	2i(4)	13975	
(5) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (4).....	2i(5)		914929
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	2j		232164457
Net Income and Reconciliation			
k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d.....	2k		300952851
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan.....	2l(1)		550196
(2) From this plan.....	2l(2)		

Part III Accountant's Opinion

3 Complete lines 3a through 3c if the opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is attached to this Form 5500. Complete line 3d if an opinion is not attached.

a The attached opinion of an independent qualified public accountant for this plan is (see instructions):

(1) ☒ Unmodified (2) ☐ Qualified (3) ☐ Disclaimer (4) ☐ Adverse

b Check the appropriate box(es) to indicate whether the IQPA performed an ERISA section 103(a)(3)(C) audit. Check both boxes (1) and (2) if the audit was performed pursuant to both 29 CFR 2520.103-8 and 29 CFR 2520.103-12(d). Check box (3) if pursuant to neither.

(1) ☐ DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 (2) ☐ DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d) (3) ☒ neither DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 nor DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d).

c Enter the name and EIN of the accountant (or accounting firm) below:

(1) Name: COHENREZNICK LLP

(2) EIN: 22-1478099

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** because:

(1) ☐ This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, or MTIA. (2) ☐ It will be attached to the next Form 5500 pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.104-50.

Part IV Compliance Questions

4 CCTs and PSAs do not complete Part IV. MTIAs, 103-12 IEs, and GIAs do not complete lines 4a, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4k, 4m, 4n, or 5. 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 4j and 4l. MTIAs also do not complete line 4l.

During the plan year:

a Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.).....

	Yes	No	Amount
4a		X	

	Yes	No	Amount
b Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)			
4b		X	
c Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)			
4c		X	
d Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)			
4d		X	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	X		1000000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?		X	
4f		X	
g Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?		X	
4g		X	
h Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?		X	
4h		X	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	X		
4i	X		
j Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked and see instructions for format requirements.)		X	
4j		X	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?		X	
4k		X	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?		X	
4l		X	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)	X		
4m	X		
n If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.	X		
4n	X		

5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year? ☐ Yes ☒ No
If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year _____.

5b If, during this plan year, any assets or liabilities were transferred from this plan to another plan(s), identify the plan(s) to which assets or liabilities were transferred. (See instructions.)

5b(1) Name of plan(s)	5b(2) EIN(s)	5b(3) PN(s)

5c Was the plan a defined benefit plan covered under the PBGC insurance program at any time during this plan year? (See ERISA section 4021 and instructions.) ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not determined
If "Yes" is checked, enter the My PAA confirmation number from the PBGC premium filing for this plan year _____.

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Retirement Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ► File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 2021 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2021 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2021 and ending 12/31/2021

A Name of plan LINDE RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ► 334
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 LINDE INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 06-1249050

Part I	Distributions
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All references to distributions relate only to payments of benefits during the plan year.

1	Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions.....	1	0
2	Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits): EIN(s): 04-6568107		
Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.			
3	Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year	3	

Part II	Funding Information (If the plan is not subject to the minimum funding requirements of section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code or ERISA section 302, skip this Part.)
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4	Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A
If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.				
5	If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. Date: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.			
6	a Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived)	6a		
	b Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year	6b		
	c Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount)	6c		
If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.				
7	Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A
8	If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure or other authority providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A

Part III	Amendments
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9	If this is a defined benefit pension plan, were any amendments adopted during this plan year that increased or decreased the value of benefits? If yes, check the appropriate box. If no, check the "No" box.....	☐ Increase	☐ Decrease	☐ Both	☐ No
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Part IV	ESOPs (see instructions). If this is not a plan described under section 409(a) or 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, skip this Part.
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10	Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan?	☐ Yes	☒ No
11	a Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock?	☐ Yes	☒ No
	b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.)	☐ Yes	☒ No
12	Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market?	☐ Yes	☒ No

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 5500.

Schedule R (Form 5500) 2021
v. 201209

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

13 Enter the following information for each employer that contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year (measured in dollars). See instructions. *Complete as many entries as needed to report all applicable employers.*

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

- 14** Enter the number of deferred vested and retired participants (inactive participants), as of the beginning of the plan year, whose contributing employer is no longer making contributions to the plan for:

a The current plan year. Check the box to indicate the counting method used to determine the number of inactive participants: ☐ last contributing employer ☐ alternative ☐ reasonable approximation (see instructions for required attachment).....

14a

b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment).....

14b

c The second preceding plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment).....

14c

- 15** Enter the ratio of the number of participants under the plan on whose behalf no employer had an obligation to make an employer contribution during the current plan year to:

a The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year.....

15a

b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year.....

15b

- 16** Information with respect to any employers who withdrew from the plan during the preceding plan year:

a Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year.....

16a

b If line 16a is greater than 0, enter the aggregate amount of withdrawal liability assessed or estimated to be assessed against such withdrawn employers.....

16b

- 17** If assets and liabilities from another plan have been transferred to or merged with this plan during the plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment..... ☐

Part VI Additional Information for Single-Employer and Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

- 18** If any liabilities to participants or their beneficiaries under the plan as of the end of the plan year consist (in whole or in part) of liabilities to such participants and beneficiaries under two or more pension plans as of immediately before such plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment..... ☐

- 19** If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete lines (a) through (c)

a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as:

Stock: _____% Investment-Grade Debt: _____% High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Estate: _____% Other: _____%

b Provide the average duration of the combined investment-grade and high-yield debt:

☐ 0-3 years ☐ 3-6 years ☐ 6-9 years ☐ 9-12 years ☐ 12-15 years ☐ 15-18 years ☐ 18-21 years ☐ 21 years or more

c What duration measure was used to calculate line 19(b)?

☐ Effective duration ☐ Macaulay duration ☐ Modified duration ☐ Other (specify): _____

- 20 PBGC missed contribution reporting requirements.** If this is a multiemployer plan or a single-employer plan that is not covered by PBGC, skip line 20.

a Is the amount of unpaid minimum required contributions for all years from Schedule SB (Form 5500) line 40 greater than zero? ☐ Yes ☐ No

b If line 20a is "Yes," has PBGC been notified as required by ERISA sections 4043(c)(5) and/or 303(k)(4)? Check the applicable box:

☐ Yes.

☐ No. Reporting was waived under 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) because contributions equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution were made by the 30th day after the due date.

☐ No. The 30-day period referenced in 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) has not yet ended, and the sponsor intends to make a contribution equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution by the 30th day after the due date.

☐ No. Other. Provide explanation _____

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Administration and Investment Committee for the Linde U.S. Retirement Plans,
Plan Administrator, and Plan Participants
Linde Retirement Savings Plan

Opinion on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of the Linde Retirement Savings Plan (the "Plan") as of December 31, 2021 and 2020, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2021, and the related notes and schedule (collectively referred to as the "financial statements"). In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan as of December 31, 2021 and 2020, and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2021, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) ("PCAOB") and are required to be independent with respect to the Plan in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. The Plan is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. As part of our audits, we are required to obtain an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, but not for purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion.

Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by the Plan's management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Supplemental Information

The supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year) (Schedule H – Line 4i) as of December 31, 2021 has been subjected to audit procedures performed in conjunction with the audit of the Plan's financial statements. The supplemental information is the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our audit procedures included determining whether the supplemental information reconciles to the financial statements or the underlying accounting and other records, as applicable, and performing procedures to test the completeness and accuracy of the information presented in the supplemental information. In forming our opinion on the supplemental information in the accompanying schedule, we evaluated whether the supplemental information, including its form and content, is presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. In our opinion, the supplemental information in the accompanying schedule is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

We have served as the Plan's auditor since 2020.

CohnReznick LLP

Hartford, Connecticut
June 28, 2022

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 11-K

☒ **ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15 (d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2021

OR

☐ **TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15 (d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission File Number 001-38730

A. Full title of the plan and the address of the plan, if different from that of the issuer named below:

Linde Retirement Savings Plan

Linde Inc.
10 Riverview Drive
Danbury, CT 06810-6268

B. Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plan and the address of its principal executive office:

Linde plc

Forge
43 Church Street West
Woking, Surrey GU21 6HT
United Kingdom

Linde Retirement Savings Plan

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<u>Signature</u>	<u>15</u>

All other schedules required by the Department of Labor’s Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) have been omitted because they are not applicable.

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Administration and Investment Committee for the Linde U.S. Retirement Plans,
Plan Administrator, and Plan Participants
Linde Retirement Savings Plan

Opinion on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of the Linde Retirement Savings Plan (the “Plan”) as of December 31, 2021 and 2020, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2021, and the related notes and schedule (collectively referred to as the “financial statements”). In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan as of December 31, 2021 and 2020, and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2021, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan’s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (“PCAOB”) and are required to be independent with respect to the Plan in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. The Plan is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. As part of our audits, we are required to obtain an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, but not for purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan’s internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion.

Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by the Plan’s management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Supplemental Information

The supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year) (Schedule H – Line 4i) as of December 31, 2021 has been subjected to audit procedures performed in conjunction with the audit of the Plan’s financial statements. The supplemental information is the responsibility of the Plan’s management. Our audit procedures included determining whether the supplemental information reconciles to the financial statements or the underlying accounting and other records, as applicable, and performing procedures to test the completeness and accuracy of the information presented in the supplemental information. In forming our opinion on the supplemental information in the accompanying schedule, we evaluated whether the supplemental information, including its form and content, is presented in conformity with the Department of Labor’s Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. In our opinion, the supplemental information in the accompanying schedule is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

/s/ CohnReznick LLP

We have served as the Plan's auditor since 2020.

Hartford, Connecticut

June 28, 2022

Linde Retirement Savings Plan
Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits
as of December 31, 2021 and 2020

	December 31,	
	2021	2020
Assets:		
Cash	\$ 907,387	\$ 1,113,631
Investments:		
Investments, at fair value (Notes 6 and 7)	2,555,858,950	1,876,434,038
Investments, at contract value (Note 8)	291,814,506	295,095,216
Total Investments	<u>2,847,673,456</u>	<u>2,171,529,254</u>
Receivables:		
Transfer of assets to Plan (Note 11)	—	364,536,538
Participant contributions	—	1,731,759
Employer contributions	331,495	933,255
Notes receivable from participants	<u>40,640,878</u>	<u>38,684,320</u>
Total Receivables	<u>40,972,373</u>	<u>405,885,872</u>
Total Assets	<u>2,889,553,216</u>	<u>2,578,528,757</u>
Liabilities:		
Accrued expenses	<u>12,409</u>	<u>88,556</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>12,409</u>	<u>88,556</u>
Net Assets Available for Benefits	<u>\$ 2,889,540,807</u>	<u>\$ 2,578,440,201</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Linde Retirement Savings Plan
Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits
for the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Additions to (Deductions from) Net Assets	
Contributions:	
Participants	\$ 78,476,538
Employer	37,388,581
Rollovers from other plans	6,600,916
Total contributions	122,466,035
Investment income (loss):	
Net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments	408,284,517
Interest and dividends	9,913,269
Total net investment income (loss)	418,197,786
Interest income on notes receivable from participants	2,051,046
Benefit payments to participants	(231,249,528)
Administrative expenses	(914,929)
Total deductions	(232,164,457)
Transfer of assets to Plan (Note 11)	550,196
Net Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets Available for Benefits	311,100,606
Net Assets Available for Benefits	
Beginning of year	2,578,440,201
End of year	<u>\$ 2,889,540,807</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**Linde Retirement Savings Plan
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2021 and 2020**

Note 1 - Inception of the Plan

Praxair, Inc. established The Savings Program for Employees of Praxair, Inc. and Participating Subsidiary Companies on July 1, 1992. Effective July 1, 2002, the Plan was renamed the Praxair Retirement Savings Plan.

Effective September 1, 2020, Praxair, Inc. legally changed its name to Linde Inc (the “Company”) and the Praxair Retirement Savings Plan was renamed the Linde Retirement Savings Plan (the “Plan”).

Note 2 - Description of the Plan

The following description of the Plan provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan document, as amended, for a complete description of the Plan's provisions. The following information does not apply to employees covered under a bargaining unit agreement. Employees covered under a collective bargaining agreement should refer to such agreement for the terms applicable to them.

General

The Plan is a defined contribution plan and is administered by the Administration and Investment Committee for the Linde U.S. Retirement Plans (the “Administrator”). The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (“ERISA”) as amended. The Trustee of the Plan’s assets is Fidelity Management Trust Company (“Fidelity”).

As of the close of business on December 31, 2020, the Linde Savings and Investment Plan (“SIP”) and the Linde Holdings 401(k) Plan (“Holdings 401(k)”) were merged with and into the Plan. Net assets of \$303,274,301 and \$96,204,949, respectively, were recorded as a transfer into the Plan - see Note 11 for additional information.

Plan Amendments

The Plan was amended and restated effective December 31, 2020 to incorporate all amendments since the Plan was last restated as of January 1, 2013. Amendments made to the Plan during 2021 include:

- i. Praxair Distribution, Inc. was renamed Linde Gas & Equipment Inc. (“LG&E”), and Linde Gas North America, LLC was merged with and into LG&E.
- ii. The Linde Gas Tax Deferred Savings Plan was merged into the Plan (see Note 11).
- iii. Adoption of provisions to provide for FEMA-declared disaster related hardship withdrawals.

Eligibility

All regular full-time employees (as defined in the Plan) of the Company and any of its affiliates that have adopted the Plan are eligible to participate in the Plan. Part-time employees (as defined in the Plan) of the Company and its participating affiliates are eligible to participate in the Plan following their completion of certain minimum service requirements as set forth in the Plan.

Contributions

Participant contributions to the Plan are made through payroll deductions. Contributions for all Plan participants are calculated as a percentage of compensation (as defined in the Plan) based on contribution limits established by the Administrator. Non-highly compensated employees (as defined in the Internal Revenue Code (the “Code”)) are allowed to contribute between 1% and 40% of their eligible compensation on either a before-tax, after-tax, or Roth basis in any combination. Highly compensated employees are allowed to contribute between 1% and 20% of eligible compensation, in any combination of before-tax, after-tax or Roth contributions.

The Plan must meet the actual deferral percentage tests in Section 401(k)(3)(A) of the Code. All participants’ before-tax contributions are limited, however, to an indexed annual amount prescribed by the Internal Revenue Service (the “IRS”), which amounted to \$19,500 in 2021. All employees who are eligible to make deferrals under the Plan and who have attained age 50 before the close of the Plan year, may elect to make additional “catch-up” contributions for the Plan year. The maximum catch-up contribution amount permitted under the Code was \$6,500 in 2021.

Participants are able to designate part or all of their future contributions as Roth 401(k) contributions. Roth 401(k) contributions are made on an after-tax basis and are eligible for Company matching contributions. The combined Roth 401(k) and pre-tax 401(k) contributions cannot exceed the annual IRS or Plan limits specified above.

Participants meeting certain minimum age and/or Plan participation requirements are able to convert part or all of their 401(k) pre-tax and Company contribution account balances into designated Roth 401(k) account balances.

**Linde Retirement Savings Plan
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2021 and 2020**

Amounts converted to Roth 401(k) are subject to income tax in the year of conversion, but are free from income tax upon distribution, as long as it has been at least five years since the participant first made Roth contributions (including the conversion) to the Plan and the participant is at least age 59^{1/2}.

All newly hired eligible employees are automatically enrolled in the Plan at a pre-tax contribution rate of 5% of eligible compensation, unless the employee affirmatively elects not to participate in the Plan or elects to participate at a different rate. Prior to being automatically enrolled in the Plan, each newly hired eligible employee is provided a notice of the Plan's automatic enrollment provisions and is given a period of time during which to opt out of Plan participation. Newly hired eligible employees may also voluntarily elect to enroll in the Plan with an effective date prior to the date they would otherwise be automatically enrolled and may elect a contribution rate other than 5% of eligible compensation.

All participants, including those who are automatically enrolled, may change or suspend their level of Plan contributions at any time.

Except for those employed by the Company's LG&E business unit, the Company matching contribution available to a Plan participant is determined based on the component of the Plan in which the participant participates. For all Plan participants hired after April 30, 2002 and those Plan participants hired prior to May 1, 2002 who elected to be covered by the Account-Based Design feature of the Plan, the Plan provides for a Company matching contribution equal to 100% of the first 5% of compensation contributed by the participant. For Plan participants who were employees of the Company as of April 30, 2002, and elected to be covered under the Traditional Design feature of the Plan, the Plan provides for a Company matching contribution equal to 70% of the first 2^{1/2}% of the participant's compensation contributed to the Plan and 40% of the next 5% of the participant's compensation contributed to the Plan. The Company matching contributions are made in cash and immediately invested in accordance with the participant's investment directions.

In lieu of the Company matching contributions and other Company contributions described above, Plan participants who are regular/full-time employees of LG&E are immediately eligible for Company contributions as outlined below. Part-time employees of LG&E are only eligible to receive Company contributions under the Plan after their completion of certain minimum service requirements as set forth in the Plan.

The Company will make a contribution on behalf of eligible LG&E participants according to the following table. One age point is granted for each year of age, and one point for each full year of Company service. Points are determined at the beginning of the Plan year. The Company contribution is a percent of compensation (as defined in the Plan). The contribution will be made at the end of each pay period. Participants not employed by LG&E are not eligible to receive these Company contributions.

Age and Service Points	Under 30 points	30 - 39 points	40 - 49 points	50 - 54 points	55 or more points
Company contribution	2.0 %	2.5 %	3.0 %	4.0 %	5.0 %

Participants' Account Activity

Participant accounts are credited with participant and Company contributions and investment returns which are based upon each participant's investment direction. Participant accounts are charged for withdrawals and other Plan administrative expenses. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

Vesting

Except as provided below, participants are fully vested in their Plan account balances at all times. Participants employed by LG&E are at all times fully vested in their own contributions and rollover contributions. Participants employed by LG&E become fully vested in Company contributions after completing three years of service. Unvested Company contributions are forfeited following separation from the Company and may be used to reduce future Company contributions or for Plan expenses.

**Linde Retirement Savings Plan
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2021 and 2020**

Investment Options

Plan participants may, subject to certain restrictions, direct the investment of their Plan accounts among various investment options offered by the Plan listed below:

Mutual Funds

Self-Directed Brokerage Account (“BrokerageLink”)

Linde Stock (superseded the Linde Stock Fund in November 2020 - refer to Note 6)

Common Trusts

Stable Value Fund

Participants may change the investment election of their contributions and existing balances at any time.

Dividend Payout on Company Stock

A portion of the Plan consisting of Linde Stock has been designated as an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (“ESOP”). A dividend payout feature allows participants to elect to receive any future dividends from Linde Stock in cash as taxable distributions, rather than having such dividends reinvested in the Plan. The designation as an ESOP has no other effect on benefits under the Plan.

Withdrawals and Distributions

Plan participants may generally withdraw after-tax contributions from their account balances while working and, in limited cases (as defined in the Plan's provisions), may withdraw before-tax contributions. Mandatory distributions from the Plan are required to begin no later than April 1 of the year following the year in which a participant attains age 72 (age 70 ¹/₂ if the Participant was born before July 1, 1949) or retires from service with the Company, whichever is later. Actively employed participants may begin receiving distributions of pre-tax contributions at age 59 ¹/₂.

Notes Receivable from Participants (Participant Loans)

The Plan generally permits participants to borrow from their accounts a minimum of \$1,000 up to the lesser of \$50,000 or 50% of their vested account balances. Participants are permitted to have up to two loans outstanding at any time. Certain other restrictions apply, as defined in the Plan.

Participant loans are repaid during fixed terms not to exceed five years (thirty years for principal home loans). Principal and interest are paid ratably, generally through payroll deductions. The loans are collateralized by the balance in the participant's account and bear interest at fixed rates determined at loan inception. The loan interest rate is set on a quarterly basis at a rate equal to the prime rate plus 1%. Interest rates on loans outstanding as of December 31, 2021 ranged from 2.25% to 9.40%, with various maturity dates through 2051. A loan application fee of \$50 is charged to the participant's account for each new loan request.

Participant loans are carried at unpaid principal balance plus accrued but unpaid interest. No allowances for credit losses have been recorded as of December 31, 2021 and 2020. Participant loans are deemed delinquent 90 days after the loan repayment is due and unpaid and are recorded as a distribution in accordance with the terms of the Plan and applicable law. Notes receivable from participants on the Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits are presented net of delinquent participant loans of \$1,268,444 and \$1,190,215 at December 31, 2021 and 2020, respectively.

Rollovers

Rollovers represent transfers of account balances of certain participants into certain investments of the Plan from other qualified plans or from individual retirement accounts.

Unclaimed Benefits and Forfeitures

The benefit payable on behalf of a participant who cannot be located by the Administrator may be forfeited at such time as the Administrator has made the determination. However, the forfeiture will be restored to the participant's account by the Administrator if such participant subsequently makes a valid claim for the benefit. In limited circumstances, when a participant is automatically enrolled in the Plan and then subsequently elects not to participate in the Plan, the participant's matching Company contribution will be forfeited. In addition, Company contributions made on behalf of participants employed by LG&E

**Linde Retirement Savings Plan
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2021 and 2020**

are forfeited if the participant does not complete three years of service with the Company. Amounts forfeited under the Plan shall be applied either to pay the Plan's administrative expenses or to reduce future Company contributions. The amounts of forfeiture balances at December 31, 2021 and 2020 were \$794,398 and \$263,385, respectively. The amount of forfeitures used to reduce employer contributions in 2021 was \$565,746.

Note 3 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Method of Accounting

The financial statements of the Plan are prepared under the accrual method of accounting.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amount of income and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Payment of Benefits

Benefits are recorded when paid.

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

Plan investments, except for the fully-benefit responsive investment contract, are reported at fair value. Fair value is determined based upon quoted market prices or by using observable market based inputs, other than quoted market prices, for similar investments. Funds are valued on a daily basis. Shares of mutual funds are valued at the net asset value of shares held by the Plan at year-end. The fair value per unit of investments in common trusts is measured using Net Asset Value ("NAV") as a practical expedient and is determined by each fund's trustee based on the fair value of the underlying securities within that fund. The fully-benefit responsive investment contract is reported at contract value, which is the relevant measure since it represents the amount that the participant would transact at under the terms of the Plan.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date.

The Plan presents in the Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits the net appreciation (depreciation) in the fair value of its investments which consists of the realized gains or losses and the unrealized appreciation or depreciation on those investments.

Note 4 - Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan provides various investment options that invest in any combination of Linde ordinary shares, mutual funds, common collective trusts, stable value fund, and other investment securities. These investment securities are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, market and credit risks. Due to the level of risk and uncertainty associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits. Additionally, the continuation of the effects of COVID-19 could impact global financial markets and economic conditions and the ultimate impact on the financial performance of the Plan's investments cannot be reasonably estimated at this time.

Note 5 - Reconciliation of Financial Statements to Form 5500

The following is a reconciliation of net assets available for benefits per the financial statements at December 31, 2021 and 2020 to the Form 5500:

	2021	2020
Net assets available for benefits per the financial statements	\$ 2,889,540,807	\$ 2,578,440,201
Contract value adjustment	(4,505,601)	5,091,958
Net assets available for benefits per the Form 5500	<u>\$ 2,885,035,206</u>	<u>\$ 2,583,532,159</u>

**Linde Retirement Savings Plan
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2021 and 2020**

The following is a reconciliation of the total net increase in net assets available for benefits per the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2021 to the Form 5500:

	2021
Total net increase in net assets available for benefits	\$ 311,100,606
Contract value adjustment as of December 31, 2021	(4,505,601)
Contract value adjustment as of December 31, 2020	(5,091,958)
Total net increase in net assets available for benefits per the Form 5500	<u>\$ 301,503,047</u>

Note 6 - Fair Value Measurements

The fair value hierarchy prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value in three broad levels as follows:

Level 1 – quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities

Level 2 – quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets or inputs that are observable

Level 3 – inputs that are unobservable (for example cash flow modeling inputs based on assumptions) and significant to the fair value measurement.

The asset or liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques maximize the use of relevant observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

The following tables summarize investment assets measured at fair value at December 31, 2021 and 2020. During the years presented, there have been no transfers of assets between Levels 1, 2 and 3 as defined above:

Investment Assets at Fair Value at December 31, 2021

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Mutual Funds	\$ 77,633,356	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 77,633,356
Self-Directed Brokerage Account	60,606,531	—	—	60,606,531
Linde Stock	610,275,200	—	—	610,275,200
Total Investments, at Fair Value	<u>748,515,087</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	748,515,087
Common Trusts*				1,807,343,863
Total Fair Value Investments				<u>\$ 2,555,858,950</u>

Investment Assets at Fair Value at December 31, 2020

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Mutual Funds	92,185,784	—	—	92,185,784
Self-Directed Brokerage Account	43,855,435	—	—	43,855,435
Linde Stock	493,422,142	—	—	493,422,142
Total Investments, at Fair Value	<u>629,463,361</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	629,463,361
Common Trusts*				1,246,970,677
Total Fair Value Investments				<u>\$ 1,876,434,038</u>

* Common trusts are measured using the Net Asset Value (“NAV”) as a practical expedient for fair value as permissible under ASC Topic 820 and have not been categorized in the fair value hierarchy. Common trust NAVs are provided by the trustee and are determined by reference to the fair value of the underlying securities of the trust, less its liabilities, which are valued primarily through the use of directly or indirectly observable inputs. Depending on the common trust, underlying securities may include marketable equity securities with small, moderate, or large market capitalizations; international marketable equity securities and other investments; domestic fixed income securities; money market funds; or investment contracts issued by insurance companies and other financial institutions.

There are no plan liabilities required to be recorded at fair value at December 31, 2021 and 2020.

**Linde Retirement Savings Plan
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2021 and 2020**

The following is a description of the valuation methodologies for the Plan assets measured at fair value. There have been no changes to the methodologies used at December 31, 2021 and 2020.

Mutual Funds – This class primarily consists of publicly traded funds of registered investment companies. The mutual funds invest primarily in fixed income securities within the domestic market. The fair value of mutual fund investments is determined by reference to the fair value of the underlying securities of the mutual funds. The net asset value of the mutual fund's shares is the closing price as quoted on the exchange where the fund is traded and, therefore, classified as Level 1 within the valuation hierarchy.

Self-Directed Brokerage Account – This investment option primarily consists of publicly traded funds of registered investment companies. The participants have the ability to invest in Fidelity managed mutual funds and non-Fidelity managed mutual funds available through Fidelity. The fair value of the self-directed brokerage account is determined by reference to the fair value of the underlying securities within the self-directed brokerage account. The underlying investments held in the self-directed brokerage account are valued at the closing price as quoted on the exchange where the underlying securities are traded and are therefore classified as Level 1 within the valuation hierarchy.

Linde Stock (supersedes the Linde Stock Fund) – Effective close of market (4:00 PM Eastern Time) on November 17, 2020, the Linde Stock Fund investment option was converted to a real-time traded stock. The Linde Stock Fund consisted of Linde plc ordinary shares and a short-term cash component, which provided liquidity for daily trading. Linde Stock is classified as Level 1 within the valuation hierarchy as of December 31, 2021 and 2020. Linde plc ordinary shares are valued at the quoted closing market price from the NYSE, under the ticker symbol "LIN". The short term cash investment component of the Linde Stock Fund was valued at cost, which approximates fair value.

Note 7 - Investments at Net Asset Value

The Plan has common trust investments with BlackRock, Northern Trust, and State Street Global Advisors. Units of the funds are valued on the valuation date, which is defined as either each day that trading occurs on the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") or that the fund is open for business, depending on the common trust. Redemption frequency is on a daily basis and, as of December 31, 2021 and 2020, there were no unfunded commitments.

Note 8 - Stable Value Fund

On July 1, 2019, the Plan provided written notice of its intent to withdraw from the Fidelity MIP II Class 3 Fund ("MIP") on June 30, 2020, in accordance with the redemption notice period. At close of market (4:00 PM Eastern Time) on July 1, 2020, all existing balances in the MIP were directed into the Prudential Stable Value Fund investment option.

The Prudential Stable Value Fund is a stable value fund that invests in group annuity contracts (a Synthetic Guaranteed Investment Contract or "GIC") issued by the Prudential Insurance Company of America ("PICA") and the Prudential Core Conservative Intermediate Bond Fund, a fixed income common trust. The objective of the fund is to provide a guaranteed and stable return to investors. The Synthetic GIC held by the Plan includes a "wrapper" contract that provides a guaranteed interest crediting rate, which is reset quarterly and cannot fall below 0%.

The Plan's investment in the Prudential Stable Value Fund is fully benefit-responsive and is therefore presented in the Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits at contract value. Contract value represents participant contributions, accreted by the applicable interest crediting rate and reduced by withdrawals and fund management fees. Contract value is also indicative of fair value because it represents the amount that the participant would transact at under the terms of the Plan. There are no required redemption notice periods or restrictions as investments can be liquidated immediately at current market value.

Certain events may limit the ability of the Plan to transact at contract value and are contract specific. Examples of such events include the following: (1) announcement of the Company's intention to terminate the Plan, (2) announcement of the Company's intention to merge or consolidate the Plan with another tax qualified plan, and (3) determination by the Internal Revenue Service that the Plan does not meet the requirements of a qualified program under Section 401(a) of the Code. No events are probable of occurring that may limit the ability of the Plan to transact at contract value with the contract issuers and that also would limit the ability of the Plan to transact at contract value with the participants.

In addition, certain events may allow the issuer to terminate the contracts with the Plan and settle at an amount different from contract value. Such events are contract specific and include the following: (1) a material breach of the contract provisions and (2) a breach of the Plan's investment guidelines, including prohibition on competing investments, that has not been remediated.

**Linde Retirement Savings Plan
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2021 and 2020**

Note 9 - Tax Status

The IRS determined and informed the Company by a letter dated August 21, 2014 that the Plan and related trust were designed in accordance with applicable sections of the Code. Although the Plan has been amended and restated since the date it was submitted to the IRS, the Plan Administrator and counsel believe that in design and operation, the Plan continues to operate in accordance with applicable law.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require Plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability if the Plan has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by federal, state and/or local taxing authorities. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions.

In May 2017, the U.S. Department of Labor (“DOL”) notified the Plan administrator that the Plan was under review, covering the period January 1, 2014 through 2019. In July 2020, the DOL notified the Plan administrator that it had concluded its review.

Note 10 - Plan Expenses

Fees incurred by the Plan for investment management services are included in the net appreciation (depreciation) in the fair value of investments. Administrative fees are paid by the Plan in accordance with Plan provisions and are allocated to participants with account balances in the Plan. The rate charged to Plan participants on a quarterly basis was \$11.00 and covers all administrative expenses and recordkeeping fees incurred by the Plan, in accordance with Plan provisions. To the extent deductions from participant accounts were insufficient to cover the total cost of the Plan, the difference would be paid by the Company. No plan expenses were paid by the Company during 2021.

Note 11 - Plan Merger

As of the close of business on December 31, 2020, the SIP and Holdings 401(k) plans were merged with and into the Plan. At the merger date, the majority of in-kind and liquidated investments of the SIP and Holdings 401(k) plans remained invested with the respective trustees. Total net assets available for benefits of both plans at year-end were \$399,479,250. As the net assets were in the process of being transferred to the surviving trust at year-end, \$364,536,538 of the transfer is reflected as a receivable and \$34,942,712 of the transfer is reflected within Investments, at Contract Value in the Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits.

The merger did not affect participant contributions or benefits under the amended and restated Plan document. Effective January 1, 2021 the benefit provisions of the SIP and Holdings 401(k) plans were incorporated into the Plan.

As of the close of business on September 9, 2021, the Linde Gas Tax Deferred Plan, a frozen plan with no active contributions, was merged with and into the Linde Retirement Savings Plan. Total net assets available for benefits of the plan on the valuation date was \$550,196.

Note 12 - Parties-in-Interest Transactions

Certain Plan investments are shares of self-directed brokerage accounts managed by Fidelity. Fidelity is the trustee as defined by the Plan; therefore, these transactions qualify as party-in-interest transactions. Certain Plan investments include ordinary shares of Linde plc, the ultimate parent of the Company; therefore, these transactions, and associated dividend income, qualify as party-in-interest transactions. Participant loans also qualify as party-in-interest transactions.

Note 13 - Plan Termination

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan's provisions to terminate the Plan at its sole discretion. Upon such termination, the net assets of the Plan will be distributed or sold exclusively for the benefit of the participants (or their beneficiaries). Participants will also become 100% vested in their employer contributions.

Note 14 - Subsequent Events

Subsequent events have been evaluated through the date the financial statements were issued.

Linde Retirement Savings Plan
EIN: 06-1249050, Plan Number: 334
Schedule H, line 4i – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)
as of December 31, 2021

(a)	(b) Identity of issue, borrower, lessor or similar party	(c) Description of investment including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par or maturity value	(d) Cost	(e) Current value
*	Linde Stock	Ordinary Shares	** \$	610,275,200
	Prudential Stable Value Fund	Stable Value Fund	**	287,308,905
	Northern Trust S&P 500 Index	Common Trust	**	267,293,716
	BlackRock Lifepath Index 2025	Common Trust	**	255,353,309
	BlackRock Lifepath Index 2030	Common Trust	**	246,142,176
	BlackRock Lifepath Index 2035	Common Trust	**	204,454,780
	BlackRock Lifepath Index Retirement	Common Trust	**	173,913,115
	Northern Trust Russell 1000 Growth Index Fund	Common Trust	**	136,123,167
	BlackRock Lifepath Index 2040	Common Trust	**	131,540,649
	BlackRock Lifepath Index 2045	Common Trust	**	94,165,223
	State Street Global Advisors Russell Small / Mid Cap Index Fund	Common Trust	**	78,324,130
	BlackRock Lifepath Index 2050	Common Trust	**	75,506,793
	Vanguard Total Bond Market Index Institutional Plus	Mutual Fund	**	67,177,031
*	BrokerageLink	Self-Directed Brokerage Account	**	60,606,531
	BlackRock Lifepath Index 2055	Common Trust	**	43,281,921
	Northern Trust Russell 1000 Value Index Fund	Common Trust	**	40,199,465
	Northern Trust EAFE Index Fund	Common Trust	**	32,363,952
	Northern Trust Emerging Markets Index Fund	Common Trust	**	14,779,969
	BlackRock Lifepath Index 2060	Common Trust	**	12,760,176
	Vanguard Total International Bond Index AD	Mutual Fund	**	10,456,325
	BlackRock Lifepath Index 2065	Common Trust	**	1,141,323
	Total investments, at fair value		\$	2,843,167,856
*	Participant loans	Rates ranging 2.25% to 9.40%; maturities through 2051		40,640,878
	Total investments, at fair value and participant loans		\$	2,883,808,734

* Party-in-interest as defined by ERISA

** Cost information is not required for participant directed investments and, therefore, is not included

See Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
23.01	Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Signature

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Administrator of the Plan has duly caused this annual report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

Linde Retirement Savings Plan

June 28, 2022

By: _____

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kristen Putnam", written over a horizontal line.

Kristen Putnam,
Administration and Investment
Committee for the Linde U.S. Retirement Plans

(On behalf of the Plan)

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See Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm