



press release
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Saft develops world's most powerful electrochemical cell
Ultra High Power technology realized under contract with the U.S. Army

COCKEYSVILLE, MD (November 18, 2008) — Saft set a new standard of excellence for the battery industry by successfully completing the first part of development of its new Ultra High Power lithium-ion (Li-ion) cell, the world's most powerful electrochemical cell. Saft delivered the first 50 prototype VL-U cells under its contract with the U.S. Army Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM).

The U.S. Army TACOM's mission is to research and implement technologies that enable a lighter, more survivable force to ensure U.S. Army readiness and provide complete support for the armed forces. The U.S. Army TACOM selected Saft for its proven track record in delivering unparalleled power solutions for military defense applications.

“Our partnership with TACOM reaffirms Saft's reputation as an industry leader with proven reliability and expertise in delivering unprecedented technologies,” said Thomas Alcide, President of Saft America and General Manager for Saft's Specialty Battery Group. “The Ultra High Power technology will open new capabilities in directed energy and defense, ensuring the U.S. Government is equipped with the most advanced solutions to support its missions.”

Saft's rechargeable VL-U Li-ion cells will enable greater capability for directed energy and other defense applications. Initially funded by the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL), Saft designed and developed the VL-U cell capable of producing continuous power of 10 kW/kg and pulse power as high as 30 kW/kg. The VL-U technology is an evolution of Saft's current VL-V and VL-A technology. This latest development from Saft makes the VL-U cells the highest power, rechargeable electrochemical cells available in the world today, with VL-V cells remaining the mature solution for many power-hungry defense applications and VL-A cells for civil applications. VL-U will have applications in both the civil and defense markets when ready for production.

Saft's diverse Li-ion portfolio also includes high power, medium power and high energy solutions. Each of these product lines is designed specifically for applications requiring either power, energy or a combination of both. Saft also offers different products for its defense and civilian markets with similar capabilities aimed at the specific requirements and demands of these markets.

About Saft

Saft (Euronext: Saft) is a world specialist in the design and manufacture of high-tech batteries for industry. Saft batteries are used in high performance applications such as industrial infrastructure and processes, transportation, space and defence. Saft is the world's leading manufacturer of nickel-cadmium batteries for industrial applications and of primary lithium batteries for a wide range of end markets. The group is also the European leader for specialised advanced technologies for the defence and space industries. With approximately 4,000 employees worldwide, Saft is present in 18 countries. Its 15 manufacturing sites and extensive sales network enable the group to serve its customers worldwide.

For more information, visit Saft at www.saftbatteries.com

Press Contacts:

Jill Ledger, Saft Communications Director

Tel.: + 33 1 49 93 17 77; e-mail: jill.ledger@saftbatteries.com

Antoine Brenier, Saft Specialty Battery Group, Business Development Manager

Tel.: +33 1 49 93 19 18, e-mail: antoine.brenier@saftbatteries.com

U.S. Press Contact: Paige Sargent, French/West/Vaughan

Tel.: 919-277-1162; e-mail: psargent@fwv-us.com