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Saft Groupe SA reports Quarterly Financial Information for the first quarter of 2009

Paris, 29th April 2009 - Saft, leader in the design, development and manufacture of high-end batteries for industry and defence, announces its sales for the first quarter of 2009.

Sales highlights

- Q1 2009 sales down by 2.9% YoY at €145.6m.
- Q1 2009 sales down by 6.2% YoY at constant exchange rates:
 - IBG (14.4)%
 - SBG + 12.1%
 - RBS (28.3)%
- Full year sales and EBITDA* margin guidance is maintained.

* EBITDA is defined as operating profit, before depreciation, amortisation, restructuring costs and other income and expenses.

John Searle, Chairman of the Management Board, commented:

“Saft has achieved an overall satisfactory performance in Q1 2009 in light of the very challenging economic conditions. Quarterly sales registered a YoY reduction but our performance in most markets was in line with expectations.

Within the Divisions, there was continued weakness in the telecom and aviation markets within IBG, being largely offset by very strong growth in the military activities in our SBG Division. The sharp fall in sales in the RBS Division was greater than expected and was very sudden. Certainly a part of this demand reduction is due to destocking by our customers, but we will be watching developments carefully in the coming months.

As weak Q1 sales in some markets and the negative impact of lower nickel prices were factored into our full year guidance, I can confirm that our full year 2009 guidance remains unchanged with sales growth of - 5% to 0% at constant exchange rates an EBITDA margin of a minimum of 18% of sales.”

TURNOVER (€ millions, at actual exchange rates)

First quarter

Period	Q1 2009	Q1 2008	Growth / (decline)	
			at actual exchange rates	at constant exchange rates
IBG	64.5	72.6	(11.1)%	(14.4)%
SBG	66.0	57.0	15.7%	12.1%
RBS	15.1	20.3	(25.8)%	(28.3)%
Total	145.6	149.9	(2.9)%	(6.2)%

The average exchange rate in Q1 2009 was €1 to \$1.30 (compared with €1 to \$1.50 in Q1 2008). There was no change in perimeter between Q1 2008 and Q1 2009.

Q1 2009 sales of €145.6m were down 2.9% as reported and down 6.2% at constant exchange rates, compared with Q1 2008.

Industrial Battery Group (IBG)

During Q1 2009, IBG sales decreased by 11.1% YoY as reported at €64.5m and by 14.4% YoY at constant exchange rates.

The reduction in sales was essentially due to the continued low demand from the telecom market, compared to a very strong Q1 2008. Saft has addressed this reduction with the launch of a new range of telecom products in late 2008 which has had some initial commercial success, but the major target customers continue to test and qualify the product.

Additionally, there was no recovery in the aviation market due to a combination of destocking through the supply chain and a reduction in worldwide air traffic.

In contrast, the industrial standby market continued to see growth and the rail market remained strong. It is expected that the rail activity will continue to be supported by Governmental stimulus plans that are targeting rail infrastructure and rolling stock investments.

The nickel hedging position has been extended and the Division now has 60-70% of its needs hedged for the next 12 months.

Specialty Battery Group (SBG)

The Division had quarterly sales growth of 15.7% YoY as reported at €66.0m and by 12.1% YoY at constant exchange rates.

During the quarter, military sales grew strongly, growth that was diversified across applications and regions. This stronger demand is expected to continue throughout the year.

Sales to the space market for satellites also continued to grow.

The civil markets were not as strong during the quarter, with a small fall in sales of civil lithium batteries due to a combination of some market decline for certain applications and destocking.

Rechargeable Battery Systems (RBS)

In Q1 2009, sales in the RBS Division reduced by 25.8% YoY as reported to €15.1m and by 28.3% at constant exchange rates.

About a quarter of this reduction results from pricing adjustments following the fall in the cost of nickel over the second half 2008.

Beyond the pricing effect, there was a sharp fall in demand in both the lighting and electronics markets, partly due to destocking by a number of important clients facing uncertain end market demand.

The company is looking to accelerate the synergy savings from the merger of the IBG and RBS Divisions announced in February.

Johnson Controls-Saft (JCS)

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is directing significant Federal funding to support the development of the clean vehicle market in the US. This covers a range of measures, including tax credits, for the purchase of PHEV cars and part funding for the creation of cell manufacturing facilities coupled with additional State incentives.

Johnson Controls-Saft has announced that the State of Michigan will provide support totalling \$148.5m for a new cell manufacturing facility in the State which will supply batteries to current and future North American customers, most notably Ford and Azure Dynamics.

This award is complementary to any Federal funding that may be forthcoming in the future.

Financial calendar 2009

Annual shareholders' meeting	3 June 2009
2009 Q2 turnover and half year earnings	29 July 2009
2009 Q3 turnover	2 November 2009

IMPORTANT LEGAL INFORMATION AND CAUTIONARY STATEMENTS

Certain statements contained herein are forward-looking statements including, but not limited to, statements that are predictions of or indicate future events, trends, plans, objectives or results of operation. Undue reliance should not be placed on such statements because, by their nature, they are subject to known and unknown risks and uncertainties and can be affected by other factors that could cause actual results and Saft's plans and objectives to differ materially from those expressed or implied in the forward looking statements.

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. Saft is listed in the SBF 120 index on the Paris Stock Market.

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

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