



press release
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Saft America requests funding to build Li-ion battery Factory of the Future

*Proposal submitted to Department of Energy to receive funding for
the Factory of the Future in Jacksonville, FL
\$100 million grant potential to be announced in July*

COCKEYSVILLE, Md. (May 28, 2009) — Saft, a world leader in the design and manufacture of high-technology batteries, is applying for funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to build a new high-volume manufacturing plant which will produce lithium-ion cells and integrate batteries for military vehicles, aviation, smart grid support, broadband backup power and emerging applications such as energy storage for renewable energy. *“This “Factory of the Future” will help the Administration reach its goals to stimulate the economy by creating an estimated 800 new jobs within three years and will accelerate the market for and reduce the costs of renewable energy technologies in the US”* declared Thomas J. Alcide, CEO of Saft America.

Saft's proposal for a factory costing up to \$200m which was recently submitted to the Department of Energy, calls for building its Factory of the Future in Jacksonville, FL. This decision would be contingent upon successful negotiations with the City of Jacksonville and the State of Florida regarding the utilization of available incentive programs related to capital investment and job creation. Using environmentally conscientious practices and materials to make it an energy efficient facility, Saft will take this opportunity to demonstrate its energy storage technology associated with renewable energy. *“We are very supportive of Saft's efforts to potentially invest millions of dollars in both capital and salaries in Jacksonville, particularly during this difficult economic time,”* said Mayor John Peyton. *“Creating additional, high-wage jobs in this community is a top priority of my office and I look forward to working with Saft officials to help bring these investments to our community. In addition, the construction and operation of this facility at Cecil Commerce Center would be another great addition to the growing list of business activities in that area.”*

“You're talking about 800 jobs” said Senator Bill Nelson, *“If we can get this approved it would be huge for the local economy.”* *“I am extremely hopeful that Saft will be successful in its effort to build a plant in the City of Jacksonville. As a Member of the North Florida congressional delegation, I will support and assist the company in any way I can to assist their endeavor in opening a manufacturing plant in Jacksonville. If successful, their relocation will be a win-win for the company, for the city's economy, and for job creation for our area residents,”* said Representative Corrine Brown. *“As a member of the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Caucus, I strongly support applying our nation's technological skills to addressing our energy needs. This proposal to build lithium-ion cells and batteries in Jacksonville means jobs for the community and progress in providing clean energy.”* said Representative Cliff Sterns.

Creating new jobs quickly, while enabling environmental improvement are at the cornerstone of Saft's proposal. Saft brings a unique integration of technology development, manufacturing expertise, equipment and processes needed to drive the success of renewable energy technologies, with proven capability to deliver high quality, high value battery solutions to its end users. Saft has provided batteries for diverse air, land and sea applications such as fighter aircraft, commercial aircraft, stationary applications, military hybrid electric ground vehicles, underwater defense applications and commercial and government satellite programs.

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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