communiqué de presse press release

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Saft announces refinancing and trading update

Paris, 11th June 2009 – Saft announces the refinancing of its credit facilities. In February, Saft indicated its intention to pro-actively seek to refinance its existing credit facilities maturing in July 2010, before the end of 2009.

On 5th June 2009, Saft entered into a loan offering agreement with six Mandated Lead Arrangers (BNP Paribas, Calyon, HSBC France, Lloyds TSB, Natixis, Société Générale) to refinance the Group's existing loan facilities. The new financing package will secure the funding of the Group's existing business in the medium-term and will consist of:

- Two term loans of €150m and $240m respectively. These facilities will have a 3-year bullet maturity with no scheduled amortization.
- A €33.5m 3-year revolving credit facility.

Initially, the margin will be set at 275 bps over Euribor on the Euro loans and at 300 bps over Libor on the US Dollar loan, and will be subject to a margin grid thereafter.

The new facility agreement will include similar covenants to those in the existing facilities agreement. Saft aims to complete the documentation and close the transaction in the coming weeks.

John Searle, Chairman of the Management Board, commented: "I am very pleased to announce today the refinancing of Saft's credit facilities despite the difficult current market conditions, having received support from an international pool of strong financial institutions."

On the occasion of this refinancing, Saft is also issuing an update on the current trading environment.

The Group is anticipating a decline in Q2 sales by more than 10% YoY, at constant exchange rates. This is caused mainly by a sudden and sharp slowdown in civil lithium activity in the US. No material deterioration has been seen in Q2 compared with Q1, except in that one market, where many local authority-funded metering projects have been pushed back due to budget constraints.

Although Saft anticipates a stronger performance in the second half of the year, the group is reviewing its full-year sales guidance which will be communicated at the end of July together with the H1 results.

Saft remains confident that full-year profitability guidance will be maintained due to cost reductions, including but not limited to lower nickel prices.

About Saft

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 specialized 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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