



communiqué de presse **press** release

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Saft to act as a partner in the NICE GRID project

Paris, July 27 2011 – Saft, the world specialist in the design and manufacture of high-tech batteries for industry, announced that it will act as a first-rank partner for the energy storage component of the “NICE GRID” project for design of the power grid of the future. The project, which provides for energy storage as an integral part of the distribution network, is coordinated by ERDF. Other main partners are Alstom Grid and EDF. This project benefits from a financing within the framework of the programme of the future investment programmes “Intelligent electricity networks» managed by the French energy and environment agency.

The “NICE GRID” project will provide the first life-size demonstration in mainland France of the efficiency and flexibility associated with electricity storage using Li-ion batteries integrated at three grid levels: at the originating substation, at several distribution substations and finally at the residential level (with overall storage capacity of about 2.7 MWh).

The planned storage will contribute to optimising power flows within the smart grid as a whole and improving the grid’s capacity to use intermittent renewable energy sources. The project will also enable testing of multiple functionalities including load levelling (with regard to both production and consumption of electricity), plant shutdown management and efficient management of the multiple contributors to energy production and consumption involved in the grids of the future.

“Saft is delighted by the perspective of acting alongside ERDF, Alstom Grid and EDF as a front-ranking partner in the NICE GRID project”, declared François Bouchon, Director of Saft’s Energy Storage Unit. “This project will demonstrate both the energy and economic benefits associated with energy storage using Li-ion batteries”.

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 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 and world leader in lithium-ion satellite batteries. Saft is also delivering its lithium-ion technology to new applications in clean vehicles and energy storage systems. With approximately 4,000 employees worldwide, Saft is present in 19 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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