



## **Saft's proven track record for reliability and long life keeps the Eurotunnel Group onboard for its replacement Shuttle batteries**

*Saft's new generation advanced technology nickel-based rail batteries will be fitted to the entire Eurotunnel Shuttle fleet, replacing the existing Saft batteries that have demonstrated exceptional service over nearly 20 years.*

**Paris, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013** – Saft, the world's leading designer and manufacturer of advanced technology batteries for industry, has been awarded a major contract by the Eurotunnel Group to re-equip its entire fleet of Passenger and Freight Shuttles with the latest generation advanced technology nickel-based rail batteries. The key factor in the decision was the outstanding reliability and long life demonstrated by the existing Saft batteries that have delivered efficient and reliable onboard backup power for the Shuttles for nearly 20 years.

The Eurotunnel Shuttle system carries 2.5 million cars (Le Shuttle) and 1.5 million trucks every year, between Calais and Folkestone making it by far the world leader in piggyback transport. Since the opening of the lorry Shuttle service in July 1994, Eurotunnel has carried almost 19 million Lorries, 244 million tonnes of freight goods and 172 million passengers.

*"Our strategy is to equip the Shuttles with advanced technology, recyclable and safe products, so at Eurotunnel we need absolute confidence that, when called on, the onboard batteries will deliver totally reliable backup power to ensure the continuity of vital services essential for passenger comfort and safety. Saft's outstanding track record and the fact that the batteries are built in France convinced us that their new generation batteries will meet these needs over a long service life,"* says Nicolas Chochoy, Eurotunnel project manager.

John Searle, Saft Group CEO, commented: *"Winning this contract for the replacement Shuttle batteries is a testament both to the outstanding reliability and long life demonstrated by our existing fleet of batteries, as well as the high level of service and excellent working relationship that Saft has established with the Eurotunnel Group."*

The major part of each Eurotunnel journey takes place in the Channel Tunnel itself. This means that reliable backup power is even more crucial than on regular rail services. So to ensure passenger comfort and safety, Eurotunnel relies on the Saft batteries to support critical onboard systems such as ventilation, display panels, door opening and lighting, fire detection, video, radio and computer systems as well as supporting auxiliary starting systems such as raising the pantograph.

The new generation batteries that will be fitted to the Shuttles have been developed specifically by Saft to deliver high performance, reliability and a 15-year plus service life in a compact, fully recyclable package that offers the perfect cost-effective replacement or upgrade for existing rolling stock. A total of 200 of the new batteries will be installed underneath the Shuttle vehicles to replace the existing Saft batteries, which will be recycled.



## **About Saft**

*Saft (Euronext: Saft) is a world leader in the design and manufacture of advanced technology batteries for industry. The Group is the world's leading manufacturer of nickel batteries and primary lithium batteries for the industrial infrastructure and processes, transportation, civil and military electronics' markets. Saft is the world leader in space and defence batteries with its Li-ion technologies which are also being deployed in the energy storage, transportation and telecommunication markets. Saft's 4,000 employees present in 18 countries, its 15 manufacturing sites and extensive sales network all contribute to accelerating the Group's growth for the future.*

*For more information, visit Saft at [www.saftbatteries.com](http://www.saftbatteries.com)*

## **About Eurotunnel**

*Groupe Eurotunnel (Euronext Paris: GET and London Stock Exchange: GETS) manages the infrastructure of the Channel Tunnel and operates accompanied truck shuttle and passenger shuttle (car and coach) services between Folkestone, UK and Calais, France. Eurotunnel holds the concession until 2086 to operate the Channel Tunnel, the fastest, most reliable, easiest and most environmentally friendly way to cross the Channel. This unique land crossing has become a vital link between the continent and the United Kingdom. Eurotunnel also runs a rail freight business through its subsidiary Europorte, which offers a wide range of integrated rail freight services.*

*[www.eurotunnelgroup.com](http://www.eurotunnelgroup.com)*

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