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Saft wins major lithium battery orders for smart gas and water meter projects in China

Saft makes important breakthrough in the world's largest utility metering market with primary lithium battery technology that will provide reliable power for domestic smart gas and water installations in China throughout a minimum 12-year service life

Amsterdam, October 15, 2013 – Saft, the world's leading designer and manufacturer of advanced technology batteries for industry won two major contracts to supply primary lithium batteries for domestic smart meter projects. In its first ever smart gas meter contract in China, Saft will supply around 500,000 Li-SOCl₂ cells over the next four years to one of the country's top five smart gas meter OEMs and around 500,000 Li-SOCl₂ cells to the leading water meter OEM in China over the next six months.

The two orders represent an important breakthrough for Saft in the Chinese market, which is the world's largest metering market. Recent reforms are fostering the introduction of AMR (automated meter reading) and smart meters. China's total demand for smart gas meters is estimated at 40-50 million units between 2011 and 2015, it is also estimated that shipment of smart water meters will reach more than 10 million units in 2015.

The Saft lithium cells will provide the smart meters with a reliable, maintenance free, 'fit and forget' source of autonomous power over a minimum 12-year plus service life. The gas meters, destined for projects in Hangzhou and Shenzhen, will be fitted with either A-size Li-SOCl₂ cells or C-size Li-SOCl₂ cells. The water meters will be fitted with AA-size Li-SOCl₂ cells.

Saft is the world leader in batteries for metering applications. It has used field and laboratory data collected over more than 30 years to develop a unique life-time model that enables the expected life of primary cells in this demanding application to be predicted accurately by considering the specific utilization profile. Data used by this model includes base current, pulse currents, cut-off voltage and temperature range. Calculated results are combined with results from bench tests, which sometime require years to conduct, to produce the most accurate life prediction.

Li-SOCl₂ technology

Saft Li-SOCl₂ cylindrical cells offer a nominal 3.6 V, feature a bobbin construction and are high-pulse optimized and UL (Underwriters Laboratories) recognised. The cells are non-pressurised at room temperature, feature a non-flammable electrolyte, corrosion-proof hermetically sealed stainless steel containers and incorporate safety vents and fuses. Furthermore, Saft Li-SOCl₂ cells have a low self-discharge rate - less than one per cent after one year of storage at +20°C – and demonstrated their reliable performances over long lifetime.



PRESS RELEASE

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 3,800 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

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