



Saft delivers multi-million euro battery systems contract for Beijing subway

Saft integrated battery systems are now providing vital backup power for the fleet of new metro trainsets now operating on Beijing's flagship Line 6.

Paris, December 16, 2013 – Saft, the world's leading designer and manufacturer of advanced technology batteries for industry, has completed a multi-million euro contract for CNR Changchun Railway Vehicles Co., Ltd. (CNR CRC), China's leading train manufacturer, with the delivery of onboard battery systems for the new fleet of trainsets now operating on Beijing Subway's recently opened Line 6. The contract, which is Saft's largest single order to date for the Asian metro sector, builds upon previous metro orders in Hong Kong and Shanghai to reinforce Saft's position as a key strategic supplier of emergency backup power systems for China's fast-growing urban transit sector.

The new Line 6 is the rapid transit line with the highest speed and capacity in the Beijing subway. It is currently transporting passengers over a 20 km line at speeds of up to 100 km per hour and within a few years the line will be extended to cover a total of 50 km. In contrast to most other lines in Beijing, which use six-car trainsets, Line 6 is served by eight-car trainsets that carry up to 1,960 passengers.

The onboard battery systems provide backup power for the Line 6 trains for up to 45 minutes to support vital control, communication and passenger safety functions if the main power supply is interrupted. Each CNR CRC trainset has been fitted with two fully integrated battery systems based on Saft's specialized SRM nickel-based batteries.

"Beijing subway Line 6, with its greater space for passengers and faster speed, is designed to ensure smoother passenger flow during rush hours," said Chenhui YANG, Vice general engineer of CNR CRC. "Reliability is absolutely crucial for every element, from the signal system to the elevators. That's why we have specified Saft battery systems which have a proven track record for reliability and long life on China's railways."

"Completion of this high profile contract for CNR CRC's Beijing subway trains provides positive proof of Saft's capability to design, develop and manufacture fully integrated onboard battery systems and to deliver bulk orders on time," says Xavier Delacroix, General Manager of Saft's IBG Division. "It is also further confirmation of our growing capability to win major contracts in Asia and then ensure successful customer delivery."

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A major advantage of the Saft SRM batteries for CNR CRC is that they need no special attention between normal rolling stock maintenance exercises, since topping up with water is only required at two-year intervals. This low maintenance combined with long-life enables the SRM to offer an optimized TCO (total cost of ownership) for the train operator. An added SRM advantage is that, compared to a gel lead-acid battery, they have enabled the overall battery weight to be reduced by around 50 percent - even when sizing to ensure the battery has sufficient capacity for low temperature operation. Reduced bulk with maximum reliability is a further contribution to a lower TCO, as well as freeing up valuable onboard space for other uses.

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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