

Saft battery systems to ensure reliable operation for Hitachi's new Class 800 series electric and bi-mode UK trains in multi-million euro contract

Fully integrated turnkey battery systems based on Saft's new generation MSX batteries will provide vital backup power for passenger safety and comfort systems on Hitachi's Class 800 series trains that will replace the UK's Intercity 125 diesel-powered fleet.

Paris, January 27, 2014 – Saft, the world's leading designer and manufacturer of advanced technology batteries for industry, has been awarded a multi-million Euro, five-year, framework contract by Hitachi Rail Europe to supply turnkey, fully integrated battery systems to provide vital backup power for passenger safety and comfort systems on the new Class 800 series trains destined for the UK's Great Western Main Line and East Coast Main Line services. The contract, which is one of Saft's largest agreements in the UK rail industry, covers the supply of MSX battery systems for up to 122 Hitachi Class 800 and Class 801 train sets.

As part of the Intercity Express Programme, Hitachi is replacing the UK's 40-year-old InterCity 125 high speed diesel-powered fleets with new electric and bi-mode trains that represent an important step-change in train travel in the UK. In addition to greater capacity and reduced environmental impact, the Class 800 series trains place a key focus on achieving exceptional reliability.

Jamie Foster, Procurement Director of Hitachi Rail Europe said: *"For the Intercity Express Programme, Hitachi places the highest priority on quality and reliability and we require this from our suppliers as well. Saft were able to provide us with a commercially competitive offer, while meeting our customer's demanding technical requirements regarding temperature conditions and lifecycle. When visiting Saft's manufacturing facility and observing their processes, Hitachi's quality team was very impressed. I am confident that our collaboration with Saft over the duration of our contract will be very positive, especially as they are a proven, supportive supplier to the Class 395 Javelin™ trains."*

"This a very significant contract that reinforces Saft's position in the UK rail sector. We are delighted to be building on the excellent relationship we established with Hitachi in supplying batteries for their Javelin trains," says Xavier Delacroix, General Manager of Saft's IBG Division.

Saft engineers worked in close cooperation with Hitachi to develop the optimum onboard battery system to support passenger safety and comfort functions on the Class 800 series trains - such as lighting, ventilation, door opening and communications - for up to three hours in the event of an interruption to the main power supply. A key requirement was to ensure total reliability and power continuity over a 15-year service life, even in the harsh winter conditions encountered on the train routes in North Scotland.



The result is a compact turnkey 'plug and play' battery raft, designed for mounting under the train floor, and featuring MSX batteries that deliver exceptional high power and cycling performance over a wide range of operating temperatures, from - 30°C to + 50°C. Every Class 800 and 801 train set will be fitted with at least two Saft battery systems, but some will have three or even four systems depending on their operational mode.

The first confirmed call-off from the framework agreement is for 135 battery systems for installation on Great Western Main Line trains. Saft will deliver the majority of them to Hitachi's new Newton Aycliffe factory in northeast England. However, an initial batch of 28 will be supplied to Hitachi in Japan for the pre-series test program that commences in 2014.

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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