



## **Saft wins multi-million euro battery contract from Airbus Defence & Space to power Ariane 5 ECA launch vehicles**

*Saft has reinforced its position as a trusted partner in the space industry with a further contract to supply the mission-critical onboard battery systems for the next 18 Ariane 5 ECA launchers*

**Paris, March 12, 2014** – Saft, the world's leading designer and manufacturer of advanced technology batteries for industry, has won a repeat contract from the Space Systems division of Airbus Defence & Space (formerly known as EADS Astrium Space Transportation) to supply the onboard battery systems for the next 18 Ariane 5 ECA launchers that will support the future spaceflight programme of commercial satellite launch company Arianespace. This latest contract builds on the total reliability of the Saft systems demonstrated in previous Ariane ECA orders to confirm Saft as the trusted battery partner of choice for demanding space vehicle applications.

For each Ariane 5 ECA launch vehicle, Saft will provide a total of 16 battery systems to power key elements including: main cryogenic stage (EPC), boosters (EAP), Vehicle Equipment Bay (VEB). The battery technologies supplied by Saft will include silver oxide-zinc (AgOZn) primary batteries and rechargeable nickel-based batteries.

Arianespace's order for 18 new Ariane 5 launchers is worth more than €2 billion and will enable three years of launch operations and is a significant move for the company, demonstrating confidence in the future of the commercial space launch market.

This latest contract is an extension of previous orders placed in 2005 and 2009, for which Saft delivered the batteries required for a total of 65 Ariane 5 ECA launch vehicles. All of the batteries bound for the Ariane 5 ECA will be designed and manufactured at Saft's specialized manufacturing facility in Poitiers, France, with the first delivery due in 2016 and the first launch into orbit in 2017.

*'The Ariane 5 ECA is known for a high degree of accuracy mission after mission, which demands high performance and total reliability from every onboard system', says Ben Helminen, Marketing & Strategic Planning Director for Saft's Specialty Battery division. 'We are therefore delighted that Airbus Defence & Space and its customer Arianespace have embraced Saft as a trusted partner to supply tried and tested space battery systems to continue to power the mission critical systems.'*



## **About Saft**

Saft (Euronext: Saft) is a world leading designer and manufacturer 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 deployed in the energy storage, transportation and telecommunication network markets. More than 3,800 employees in 18 countries, 14 manufacturing sites and an extensive sales network all contribute to accelerating the Group's growth for the future.

Saft batteries. Designed for industry.

[www.saftbatteries.com](http://www.saftbatteries.com)

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