



Strong sales growth of 17.9% for the first quarter of 2014

Paris, 24th April 2014 - Saft, leader in the design, development and manufacture of high-end batteries for industry and defence, announces its sales for the first quarter of 2014.

Highlights

- Q1 2014 sales were €154.3m, growth of 15.5% as reported and 17.9% at constant exchange rates.
- IBG was the main growth driver, with sales up 28.0% at constant exchange rates, while SBG returns to growth with sales up 5.2% at constant exchange rates.
- The Group confirms strong sales growth for 2014 leading to improved profitability.

John Searle, Chairman of the Management Board, commented:

“Saft has continued to grow strongly during the first quarter of 2014. Most of our activities have recorded year-on-year sales growth of greater than 10% in the quarter.

The strong performance in the telecom and transportation markets during H2 2013 has continued and we have seen a recovery in sales in our civil electronics, industrial back-up power and space business.

Finally our sales of Li-ion batteries grew very strongly from prior year and we see an increasing number of opportunities for developing our business with these products.

This very good performance was helped by favourable comparables, due to a slow start in Q1 2013.

Overall, Saft is well positioned to achieve its sales and profitability objectives communicated in February 2014.”

**TURNOVER** (€ million, at actual exchange rates)**First quarter 2014**

	Q1 2014	Q1 2013	Growth / (Decline)	
			at actual exchange rates	at constant exchange rates
IBG	93.2	74.6	24.9%	28.0%
SBG	61.1	58.9	3.7%	5.2%
Total	154.3	133.5	15.5%	17.9%

The average euro/dollar exchange rate in Q1 2014 was €1 to \$1.37, compared with €1 to \$1.32 in Q1 2013.

Industrial Battery Group (IBG)

Sales for the first quarter in the IBG division were €93.2m, representing growth of 24.9% as reported and 28.0% at constant rates.

The stationary back-up power business saw sales increase by 33.8% with sales ahead of prior year in all segments. Telecom sales remained significantly above prior year for both nickel and Li-ion Evolion® batteries. However, as expected, sales of Li-ion batteries to India were lower than the prior quarter, in line with customer demand. Sales to the industrial standby power market had a strong recovery, notably in Asia and the Middle East linked to oil and gas investments. Sales of batteries to the energy storage segment were ahead of a weak Q1 2013 and good commercial progress was made during recent months, securing additional energy storage contracts for Li-ion batteries.

Transportation sales grew by 10.1% during Q1 2014. The aviation and rail segments performed equally strongly during the quarter and maintained the growth momentum seen in 2013. The growth in sales of rail batteries came very largely from Asia whilst aviation battery sales grew well in all regions.

Finally sales of electrodes totalled €3.3m during the quarter.

**Specialty Battery Group (SBG)**

Sales in SBG division totalled €61.1m during Q1 2014, representing growth of 3.7% as reported and 5.2% at constant rates.

There was a strong recovery in sales to the civil electronics market which grew by 14.4% during the quarter. Demand was strong in the European market notably from the metering customers. The Chinese market remained a strong driver of growth in Q1.

The space and defence segments saw sales reduce by 9.6% due to a sharp fall in sales of batteries for torpedoes. This had been expected as a result of a lack of potential contracts since mid-2013. The space business recorded strong growth in the quarter, notably in the US, and the other military activities were overall broadly in line with prior year.

Financial calendar 2014

Annual shareholders' meeting	12 May 2014
2014 Q2 turnover and half year earnings	23 July 2014
2014 Q3 turnover	23 October 2014

IMPORTANT LEGAL INFORMATION AND CAUTIONARY STATEMENTS

Certain statements contained herein are forward-looking statements including, but not limited to, statements that are predictions of or indicate future events, trends, plans, objectives or results of operation. Undue reliance should not be placed on such statements because, by their nature, they are subject to known and unknown risks and uncertainties and can be affected by other factors that could cause actual results and Saft's plans and objectives to differ materially from those expressed or implied in the forward looking statements.



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 3,900 employees present in 18 countries, its 14 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

SAFT

Jill Ledger, Corporate Communications Director
Tel: +33 1 49 93 17 77, jill.ledger@saftbatteries.com

Vannara Huot, Investor Relations Director
Tel: +33 1 49 93 17 10, vannara.huot@saftbatteries.com

Brunswick Group

Mathilde RODIE, Tel: +33 1 53 96 83 97, mrodie@brunswickgroup.com
Julien TROSDORF, Tel: +33 1 53 96 83 95, jtrosdorf@brunswickgroup.com