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Saft reinforces its leadership in China's smart metering market with two major new orders for over 45 million primary lithium batteries

- *Saft is the world's leading supplier of primary lithium batteries for metering applications with an estimated 45 percent share of the global market.*
- *Battery performance and high quality are key factors in China's competitive metering market.*
- *New best-in class production plant under construction in Zhuhai will double Saft's local production capacity in China for metering cells.*
- *Deliveries are scheduled for completion by the end of 2016.*

Vienna, November 2, 2015 – Saft, the world's leading designer and manufacturer of advanced technology batteries for industry, has reinforced its leadership in the world's largest metering market by winning contracts to supply over 45 million primary lithium batteries for smart meter installations in China. These major successes have been achieved thanks to two of Saft's distributors, Royalty and Sonic, for key projects to power electricity, gas, water and heat meters deployed by local utilities. Deliveries are scheduled for completion by the end of 2016.

Smart grids are fast emerging as a vital element in China's developing utility infrastructure and this is driving the growth in demand for smart meters. By the end of 2013, a total of 370 million smart meters had been installed in China, and this figure is expected to hit 500 million in 2015 (Source - RnRMarketResearch.com - The China Smart Meter Industry Report, 2014-2018).

'The size and fast growth of China's smart meter market means that it is of crucial strategic importance for Saft and winning these latest major orders are further confirmation of our leadership position. They also demonstrate the major progress we have made since winning our first orders in this market,' said Cecile Joannin, Market Manager for Metering in Saft's Specialty Battery Group.

To continue to meet fast-growing demand in this market, Saft will transfer its production into a brand new, best in class factory. This production facility is planned to open during the first quarter of 2016, and will enable Saft to double its production capacity.

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.

**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 4,000 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

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