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Saft Li-ion batteries power F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter through LRIP programme

- *F-35 Lightning II is first fighter aircraft to rely on Li-ion technology to support mission critical roles*
- *Saft is supplying 28 V and 270 V Li-ion batteries*

Paris, June 15, 2009 – Saft, the world specialist in the design and manufacture of high-tech batteries for industry, is currently delivering the 28 V and 270 V lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries that will power the F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) through phases I, II and III of its LRIP (Low Rate Initial Production) programme.

In 2002 Saft America Inc. competed on the initial System Design and Development (SDD) Phase of the F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter Electrical Power Management System (EPMS). Saft was awarded contracts for the 28 V batteries that provide start-up power for the APU (Auxiliary Power Unit) and the 270 V batteries that provide back-up power to operate the flight control surfaces.

The initial JSF 28 V Battery was derived from the very successful F-22 Raptor Programme, using Saft's Aircraft Maintenance Free Battery (AMFB) nickel-cadmium (Ni-Cd) technology. The AMFB 28 V Battery carried the programme successfully through the aircraft's first flight in December 2006. To help reduce the aircraft weight Saft proposed a high power 28 V Li-ion battery, and this battery was used to fulfill the SDD phase of the programme. The Li-ion deployment began in late 2004 and continues into the LRIP phases.

The 270 V JSF Battery was specifically custom designed and manufactured to meet the exacting needs of the JSF application. It is a very high power 270 V Li-ion battery that has fulfilled the needs of the aircraft beginning with the SDD phase and continuing into the LRIP phase.

"The F-35 Lightning II project is an important breakthrough for Saft as it is the first time that a fighter aircraft has relied on Li-ion batteries to support mission critical roles," says Bruce McRae, Saft Aviation North America sales & marketing Director. *"The successful deployment of the Li-ion technology is also a perfect example of Saft's flexible approach that enables us to develop innovative solutions to respond to a customer's changing design requirements."*

Saft completed the SDD phase of the JSF programme in 2008 and has been awarded orders for the 28 V and 270 V Li-ion batteries for the LRIP I, II and III phases. Initial delivery of the LRIP batteries began in 2009.

Mockup displays of both batteries can be seen on Saft's booth at the Paris Air Show - Hall 2B, C74.

About Saft

Saft batteries are used in high performance applications, such as industrial infrastructure and processes, transportation, space and defence. Saft is the world's leading manufacturer of nickel-cadmium batteries for industrial applications and of primary lithium batteries for a wide range of end markets. The group is also the European leader for specialised advanced technologies for the defence and space industries. With approximately 4,000 employees worldwide, Saft is present in 18 countries. Its 15 manufacturing sites and extensive sales network enable the group to serve its customers worldwide. Saft is listed in the SBF 120 index on the Paris Stock Market.

For more information, visit Saft at www.saftbatteries.com

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