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Saft MicroSat Li-ion battery modules to power Turkey's LEO satellite

Saft wins its first satellite battery contract for TÜBİTAK UZAY

Paris, January 19, 2009 – Saft has been awarded its first satellite battery contract by Turkey's TÜBİTAK UZAY (Space Technologies Research Institute). Its space-proven MicroSat standard lithium-ion (Li-ion) battery modules will provide onboard backup power for TÜBİTAK UZAY's LEO (Low Earth Orbit) reconnaissance and surveillance micro-satellite system.

"This is an important contract for a new customer in a new country for us" said Philippe Jehanno, General Manager, Space and Defence Division, Saft. "Following a number of other recent contracts for programmes such as Canada's Sapphire and MSI's OG2 it confirms Saft's intention to establish a position as the leading Li-ion battery supplier for LEO satellites."

TÜBİTAK UZAY's LEO micro-satellite is planned to meet the ground imaging requirements of the public organizations. The satellite will be placed in a Sun synchronous orbit at a height of 700 km.

The Saft battery modules will work in conjunction with the satellite's solar array to provide the electrical power for its on-board electronics. When the solar array is fully exposed to the sun it will provide the satellite's power as well as charging the batteries. When the solar array is 'eclipsed' by the earth, with no direct sunlight, the batteries will power the satellite. The satellite will have a period of 98 minutes, so this charge and discharge cycle will be repeated 14 times a day over a five-year design life.

MicroSat battery module

The batteries will be based on Saft's MicroSat battery modules developed to provide a standard, cost-effective solution that offers the ideal combination of compact, lightweight design, high performance and long service life for micro-satellite applications.

The MPS cells and the MicroSat modules are designed, manufactured, assembled, integrated and tested in Saft's facility in Poitiers, France.

About Saft

Saft (Euronext: Saft) is a world specialist in the design and manufacture of high-tech batteries for industry. 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

Press contacts:

Jill Ledger, Saft Communications Director

Tel: + 33 1 49 93 17 77; e-mail: jill.ledger@saftbatteries.com

Wayne Pitt, Saft Specialty Battery Group, Marketing & Business Development Manager

Tel.: +33 1 49 93 18 65, e-mail: wayne.pitt@saftbatteries.com