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Thales selects GS Yuasa for Lithium ion battery system in Boeing ' s 787 Dreamliner

Thales will incorporate the latest lithium-ion technology from Japan ' s leading battery manufacturer, GS Yuasa, in the Electrical Power Conversion System of Boeing ' s next generation commercial airliner, the 787 Dreamliner. The multi-year, multi-million dollar contract is a historic first as it marks the first commercial aviation application of Li-ion technology anywhere in the world.

GS Yuasa ' s Li-ion batteries will play a key role in on-board power, providing both Auxiliary Power Unit start and emergency power back-up capabilities. In the first phase of the contract, GS Yuasa will deliver prototypes to Thales starting in spring, 2005 and mass production will start for Boeing ' s latest plane in 2007.

GS Yuasa ' s Li-ion technology offers some key advantages over the existing nickel-cadmium solution used in commercial jetliners. With 100% greater energy storage capacity, lithium-ion offers two times of energy from the same dimension nickel-cadmium battery. The battery can charge from 0 to 90% in only 75 minutes and comes with battery management electronics which guarantees multiple levels of safety features. The rugged prismatic sealed battery design is capable of withstanding extreme operating conditions far greater than those normally seen in commercial aircraft operation and requires absolutely no maintenance.

“ Thales is determined to create the safest, most advanced, efficient and reliable power system possible for the Boeing 787 Dreamliner. We are partnering with GS Yuasa because we are delighted with their battery technology. Since it is maintenance-free and has longer service life comparing to current nickel-cadmium batteries, it makes for lower operating costs and increased safety for airline companies, ” said Steve Grinham, General Manager of the electrical activity of Thales.

Naruo Otsubo, President of GS Yuasa Corporation, noted the significant investment GS Yuasa has made in proving the safety of its Li-ion technology. “ This is a tremendous award for GS Yuasa and proves our point that large Li-ion technology offers superior performance and safety under any conceivable operating or storage condition. We will exceed Thales ' expectations for battery performance and technical support. ”

About Thales

Thales is a leading international electronics and systems group, serving defence, aerospace, security and services markets worldwide. The Group employs 61, 500 people throughout the world and generated revenues of 10.3 billion euros in 2004.

About GS Yuasa Corporation

GS Yuasa is the leading Japanese producer of batteries and energy storage technologies and second largest lead-acid battery manufacturer in the world with annual revenues of \$2.1 billion. The group produces Li-Ion, Ni-Mh, lead-acid, silver zinc batteries along with power supplies, rectifiers, UPS units, and a wide array of lighting products with 23,000 employees in 28 factories across 14 countries around the world.