

Press Release

Leclanché is a partner of the project “LiANA+”

- Leclanché is the exclusive supplier of lithium ion cells for “LiANA+”, a project for developing and proving the applicability of large li-ion battery modules in diesel-electric hybrids

Yverdon-les-Bains, 28 October 2010 – Leclanché is the exclusive supplier of large-format lithium ion cells to “LiANA+” (Li-ion-Accumulators for Non-road-Applications). The project is led by the Tognum subsidiary MTU Friedrichshafen - one of the world's leading manufacturers of large diesel motors, drive systems and energy systems - and supported by Behr GmbH & Co. KG, a specialist for engine cooling systems and vehicle climatisation, as well as the battery management expert Sensor-Technik Wiedemann GmbH. “LiANA+” also has the backing of the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology.

The project aims to develop and prove the applicability of large lithium ion battery modules in mobile diesel-electric hybrids, as typically found in non-road vehicles. A central part of the project, alongside achieving the extremely high performance and cycle resistance required, is making sure that the basic energy storage system is fundamentally suitable for approval.

The use of energy storage systems in diesel-electric hybrids for non-road vehicles will make it possible to reduce both running costs and greenhouse gas emissions. Since hybrid drive systems allow for alternation between power sources, they can also increase the versatility of the vehicles.

The lithium ion cells are produced in Willstätt. Delivery to LiANA+ will start during the coming weeks. Ulrich Ehmes, Chief Executive Officer of Leclanché SA, says: “Our partnership with MTU and Behr is a clear reflection of the success of our strategic realignment towards the production of large-format lithium ion cells. LiANA+ is a cutting-edge project in the field of non-road vehicle hybridisation.”

Leclanché has a production capacity of 100,000 large-format lithium ion cells per year. In order to meet the growing demand for this technology, the company plans to commission an additional production plant for this technology with a capacity of 2 million cells per year by 2012.

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About Leclanché

Leclanché is a leading manufacturer in Europe of large format lithium ion cells. Through a unique, licensed separator technology, the core element of lithium ion cells, Leclanché is capable of manufacturing cells with above-average safety features and significantly increased longevity in an automated production process. The company's core markets are industries, which have highest demands on energy storage systems. They include energy storage solutions, which enable better utilisation of the power supply system, large hybrid diesel engines and electric vehicles. Leclanché was founded in 1909 in Yverdon-les-Bains. Through the integration of a spin-off from the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft in 2006, the company developed from being a traditional battery manufacturer to becoming a leading developer and manufacturer of lithium ion cells in Europe. Leclanché currently employs 94 staff and recorded CHF 16.33 million revenue in 2009. The company is headquartered in Yverdon-les-Bains (Switzerland) and has a factory located in Willstätt (Germany). Leclanché is listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange (LECN).

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