
Press release

Leclanché and Schüco cooperate for Lithium-Ion energy storage solutions

Yverdon-les-Bains, Switzerland / Bielefeld, Germany, June 6, 2011 – Leclanché S.A. (SIX Swiss Exchange : LECN), a specialist in the production of high capacity Lithium-Ion cells with headquarters in Yverdon-les Bains/Switzerland and production in Willstätt/Germany, and Schüco International KG (Bielefeld), a world leader in aluminum, solar, steel and plastic systems for innovative building envelopes, announced today the conclusion of a cooperation agreement to provide energy storage systems for solar generated electricity.

The energy storage system can be directly connected to solar panels in order to save the generated energy in Leclanché's high capacity Lithium-Ion batteries. This new system which will be on show on the Schüco exhibition stand at Intersolar in Munich from June 8 - 10, 2011, will significantly increase the proportion of own consumption of onsite-generated photovoltaic electricity.

"The market for renewable energy storage systems is developing and growing very fast. And Schüco, a world leader in the solar market, has decided to choose our stationary storage solutions. Leclanché commands technological know-how and leadership in state-of-the art Lithium Ion cells, as well as entire energy storage systems, including the necessary electronics," said Ulrich Ehmes, Chief Executive Officer of Leclanché. "This contract, which will use about a quarter of our new production line capacity in 2012, represents a milestone in the continuing development of Leclanché's business."

Dirk U. Hindrichs, President and CEO of Schüco International KG added: "This collaboration with Leclanché is a first important step in using energy saving technologies to utilize electricity generated by the sun even at night or during the day when levels of sunlight are low. This enforced decentralized use of electricity will also conserve the electricity in the public grid."

The modular design of the system comprises a control and a power unit specifically developed for Schüco and universal Lithium-ion energy storage modules. The heart of the system is the long-lasting high capacity Lithium-Ion batteries, produced in the Leclanché plant in Willstätt/Germany. Single energy storage modules can be stacked as needed according to the required capacity. The battery unit and its performance can be controlled using a Controller or can be connected to other energy saving systems via an optional Internet access.

Both companies envisage this agreement forming the basis for long-term partnership. They have also agreed not to disclose further contractual details.

About Leclanché

Leclanché specializes in the production of tailor-made energy storage solutions and is a leading manufacturer of large-format lithium ion cells in Europe. 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 a significantly increased life 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 allow better utilization of the power supply system, large hybrid diesel engines and electric vehicles.

Leclanché has an installed annual production capacity of 100,000 large format lithium-ion cells. To prepare for the increasing demand for this technology, the company has decided to install an additional production unit with a capacity of 1 million cells per year as of 2012.

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 revenues of CHF 15.05 million in 2010. The company has its headquarters in Yverdon-les-Bains (Switzerland) and has production and development facilities in Willstätt (Germany). Leclanché is listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange (LECN).

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About Schüco

Schüco – Green Technology for the Blue Planet

That means clean energy from solar products and windows. And the contribution that Schüco makes to the environment with pioneering building envelopes. To be more precise, with Energy3: saving energy – generating energy – networking energy. Window and façade systems not only save energy due to optimum thermal insulation, they also generate energy thanks to efficient solar solutions. This creates an excess of energy which can be used by means of intelligent networking. For building functions, as well as for everyday life. The result is a significant step towards energy self-sufficiency – towards the sustainable conservation of natural resources. And for a secure future. With 5,250 employees and 12,000 partner companies, Schüco is active in 78 countries and achieved turnover of 2.38 billion euros in 2010.

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