Availability in hundred thousand pieces per year at reasonably low prices and highly reliable evaporation characteristics to allow the automation of the photocathode formation: these are the market needs for the alkali metal sources used to build the alkali photocathodes, typically bi-alkali type, of photomultipliers.

The unique manufacturing process of SAES Getters Alkali Metal Dispensers (AMD), involving the use of semi-automated machines, guarantees production outputs largely in excess with respect to the photomultiplier market demands, at prices in line with the market needs and, at the same time, a very high reproducibility of the evaporation characteristics, thus making this product ideal for massive use in these tubes.

Photomultipliers often require a getter to maintain an adequate vacuum level for all their operational life. Due to the design of these tubes, getters must be non-evaporable, small and thin, capable to withstand the dirty atmosphere of the sealing process and, preferably, activable by passage of electrical current: SAES’ HPTF (High Porosity Thick Films) getters hit all these targets and are to be regarded as the most suitable getter family for these tubes.