



**PRESS RELEASE**

**Milan, July 5, 2011**

**Joint venture between SAES Getters and Alfmeier Präzision AG in the field of actuators based on SMA technology**

**SAES Getters**, the Italian Group world leader in the production of shape memory alloy (SMA) components, and **Alfmeier Präzision**, a German advanced electronic and plastic Group operating in the automotive, industrial and medical sectors, announce the incorporation of the joint venture **Actuator Solutions GmbH**, for the development, production and marketing of actuators based on SMA technology.

The joint venture, which is located in Treuchtlingen, Germany, is jointly controlled by the two Groups, SAES and Alfmeier, 50% respectively. In particular, SAES participates through its 100% subsidiary SAES Nitinol S.r.l., incorporated on May 12, 2011. Alfmeier participates through its 100% subsidiary SMA Holding GmbH.

The mission of Actuator Solutions GmbH is to become a world leader in the field of shape memory alloy based actuators. The newly formed company holds a license to use the technology developed by Cambridge Mechatronics Limited (CML), already technological partner of SAES Getters, for the development and commercialization of autofocus and optical image stabilization systems based on SMA components, to be applied in cameras, mobile phones and smartphones.

Actuator Solutions will rely on the distinctive expertise gained by the two partners thanks to the extensive experience respectively in the field of shape memory alloys and in the field of actuators. Alfmeier will be the provider of electronic components and plastics; SAES Group will supply its proprietary SMA materials to the joint venture.

The start of the production in Actuator Solutions GmbH is scheduled for the fourth quarter 2012.

“We are very pleased with the establishment of Actuator Solutions, resulting from the combination of the complementary competences and leadership of each Partner, pioneers in the development of the industrial market of the shape memory alloy devices” said **Massimo della Porta**, **SAES Getters S.p.A. Chairman**. “Actuator Solutions will be able to effectively exploit the advantages of the SMA technology, to manufacture and sell actuator systems for different industrial applications with high growth potential”.

**Alfmeier’s CEO, Markus Gebhardt** expressed his strong confidence in the success of the new joint venture: “Actuator Solutions carries unique genes from two, largely experienced parents that have been engaged together for a long time, bringing SMA technology to a breakthrough in global, industrial mass markets. We both sensed the hidden need for advanced SMA actuators in various industries and the joint venture will be the first of its kind, globally, to deliver on this market expectation”.

The shareholders' agreements between the two partners envisage an initial period of inalienability of the shares (“lock up”) for three years, after which the customary clauses in this type of agreements

will apply, including those aimed at regulating hypothesis of withdrawal from the company (“way out”) in case of deadlock decision (“deadlock”) or of breach of contract (“material breach”), as well as the assumptions governing the sale of shares to third parties (“pre-emption right” and “tag-along”).

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*About SAES Getters - Pioneering the development of getter technology, the SAES Getters Group is the world leader in a variety of scientific and industrial applications where stringent vacuum conditions or ultra-pure gases are required. For 70 years its getter solutions have been supporting innovation in the information display and lamp industries, in sophisticated high vacuum systems and in vacuum thermal insulation, in technologies spanning from large vacuum power tubes to miniaturized silicon-based microelectronic and micromechanical devices. The Group also holds a leading position in ultra pure gas handling for the semiconductor and other high-tech markets.*

*Starting in 2004, by leveraging the core competencies in special metallurgy and materials science, the SAES Getters Group has expanded its business into advanced material markets, in particular the market of shape memory alloys, a family of advanced materials characterized by super elasticity and by the property of assuming predefined forms when subjected to heat treatment, that are applied in the biomedical sector and, more in general, in niche industrial fields.*

*A total production capacity distributed in ten manufacturing plants across 3 continents, a worldwide-based sales & service network, about 1,100 employees allow the Group to combine multicultural skills and expertise to form a truly global enterprise.*

*SAES Getters is headquartered in the Milan area (Italy).*

*SAES Getters is listed on the Italian Stock Exchange Market since 1986, STAR segment.*

*More information on the Saes Getters Group is available in the website [www.saesgetters.com](http://www.saesgetters.com).*

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***About Alfmeier** - The Alfmeier Group consists of Alfmeier Precision AG, the parent company located in Germany and 6 subsidiaries located in 5 different countries: USA, Mexico, Czech Republic, China and Korea. With almost 2.000 employees, Alfmeier Group has closed 2010 with €176 million in sales. Base of the offered to customer services is highly precise plastic molding combined with fluidic technologies, mechatronic and electronic capabilities. For more than 50 years Alfmeier manufactures precisely engineered devices and mechatronic systems and has developed its own product portfolio within Valving and Fluidic - there's Alfmeier one of the worldwide leading companies. Beside automotive Alfmeier Group is known as a maker of molded and fully automated parts and systems within the industries of electronic, communications and health care.*

*Alfmeier has divided its business within in 4 individually acting business segments. The business unit Fluidic Systems is specialized in engineering and production of components and systems in the field of thermal management, brake power support, gas-and airflow control and fuel supply mainly for the automotive industry.*

*Business scope of Seating Comfort is engineering and production of innovative electromechanical or pneumatic comfort, massage or headrest systems for passenger car seats. As main customers seat comfort targets OEM and Tier 1 supplier either. KITE Electronics is supportive with engineering and production of electronic parts. Rondinger Kunststofftechnik, RKT is a specialist in specialized tooling and injection molding.*

*More information on the Alfmeier Group is available in the website [www.alfmeier.com](http://www.alfmeier.com).*

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