

MEDIA INFORMATION

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Schaffner Group wins contract from Scandinavian energy provider

Schaffner Group, the world's leading company in the field of electromagnetic compatibility (EMC), has won an initial order from the Swedish Vattenfall Group (www.vattenfall.se), one of the largest energy providers in Scandinavia, to supply 25,000 EMC filters for use in powerline communication (PLC). The new EMC filters will be delivered by end-December 2000, thereby contributing to the Schaffner Group's results chiefly in the first quarter of the 2000/2001 financial year (1 October to 30 September). Schaffner expects to see continuous high growth in the new PLC market over the next few years, particularly in Europe.

The new EMC filters for PLC technology were developed by the Schaffner Group in collaboration with Vattenfall's Swedish subsidiary Sensel AB (www.sensel.se) and Echelon Corporation (www.echelon.com) of the United States. Following preliminary trials in autumn 1999 and a successful field test with 10,000 specific EMC filters at the start of 2000, the new EMC filter systems are now scheduled for volume production at the Schaffner factory in Thailand, starting with the order from Vattenfall Group.

Powerline communication technology is used to transfer data over powerlines. The new Schaffner EMC filters for PLC networks ensure that control systems for in house technology are not subject to electromagnetic interference, allowing the power supply to appliances to be measured and controlled in real time from any location. Powerline communication technology is the basis for home control networks, which are used to activate individual household appliances via remote control (smart house technology).

Brief profile

The Schaffner Group is the world's leading provider in the field of electromagnetic compatibility (EMC), which is becoming more and more important given the growing problem of electromagnetic interference. Schaffner manufactures and sells EMC components which protect against electromagnetic interference, test equipment to simulate and measure electromagnetic disturbances

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and automatic test systems for power electronics. Schaffner's products and services are used by several thousand companies and specialized test laboratories in a number of industries. In the 1998/1999 business year, the Schaffner Group posted sales of CHF 150.7 million with a workforce of around 1,240.

If you have any questions about this media information, please contact Dr Alex Oechsli, Group CEO and Chairman of the Board of Directors or Daniel Hofer, CFO, telephone +41 32 681 66 26.