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Sofradir demonstrates Janus, a new compact 1/2 TV format dual band infrared detector, at SPIE Defense and Security Symposium 2007

Janus operates at the ShortWave and MidWave bands, highly suitable for military target identification, signal recognition and clutter rejection.

Sofradir will showcase Janus and its other IR detectors at booth N° 316.

Veurey-Voroize, France, April 11, 2007--Sofradir, a leading developer and manufacturer of advanced infrared detectors for military, space and commercial applications, announced that the company will demonstrate its new compact mid TV format dual band staring array, Janus, at the SPIE Defense and Security Symposium, April 9 – 13, in Orlando, FL.

Sofradir and research partner CEA-Leti-Minatec's progress to dual band IR detectors matches a growing interest from the military sector for more complex features in large format IR detector. These features improve target identification, signal recognition and clutter rejection, which reduces atmospheric perturbation. Sofradir will demonstrate Janus in a video camera at its booth N° 316.

Janus responds to needs for air to air missile and missile warning systems. It is a staring snapshot 320x256 ShortWave (SW) and MidWave (MW) Infrared Focal Plane Assembly (IRFPA). It operates in bands I (1-3 microns) and II (3-5 microns). Sofradir developed Janus in cooperation with CEA-Leti-Minatec using its newly optimized high performance, stable, low defect density Photo-Voltaic Mercury Cadmium Telluride (MCT or HgCdTe) Molecular Beam Epitaxy (MBE) technology. This dual band IR detector comes in various long vacuum-life Dewar and cooler configurations, in order to meet different mechanical and cooling system needs.

"Janus is a clear demonstration of our capability to fulfill customer expectations for decisive day and night vision in the most severe battlefield conditions such as for air to air missiles," said, Philippe Tribolet, VP R&D, Technologies and Products at Sofradir. " Thanks to joint research with the CEA-Leti-Minatec, the performance of our MCT technology continues to excel."

Sofradir, one of the leading international manufacturers of world-class IR detectors based on Mercury Cadmium Telluride (MCT) technology, is ranked number two for deliveries of second- and third-generation MCT IR detectors worldwide. Its products are used in thermal imagers, missile seekers, satellites, and other surveillance, targeting and homing infrared equipment. The company recently announced a EUR 9 million investment in a new factory that will manufacture larger format IR detectors with more complex features like Janus, as well as other competitively priced bi-color or laser imaging devices.

The CEA-Leti-Minatec is a leading international technology research center that collaborates with Sofradir to anticipate future optoelectronics defense system requirements and develop new solutions to address these needs.

About Sofradir

Sofradir develops and manufactures advanced infrared detectors (IR) for military, space and commercial applications. It specializes in cooled IR detectors based on a sophisticated high performance technology, Mercury Cadmium Telluride (MCT). Founded in 1986, is one of a handful of companies around the world who produce infrared detectors. Ranked No. 2 for units delivered, the company has around 20 - 25 per cent of the world MCT second-generation detector market. Together with its subsidiary Ulis (specialists in uncooled IR detectors), created in 2002, Sofradir generated revenues of EUR 93 M (USD 121 M) in 2006. Sofradir directly exports more than 60 per cent of its products. Customers include the US Army, Thales, Sagem, Selex, Alcatel Alenia Space and the ESA (European Space Agency).

Pioneers of MCT second and third generation IR detectors, Sofradir has a vast product portfolio of scanning and staring arrays that cover the entire infrared spectrum from 1 to 16 micrometers using MCT (Mercury Cadmium Telluride), QWIP or microbolometer technology platforms. Defense and security equipment manufacturers, worldwide, purchase Sofradir's high-grade IR detectors for application in thermal imagers, missile seekers, satellite payloads, and other surveillance, targeting and homing infrared equipment. Sofradir's long- and mid-wave IR detectors have been deployed in battlefield equipment, such as the Storm Shadow/SCALP EG IR missile seeker, Damocles targeting and NAVFLIR navigation pods, Sophie hand held goggles, IRIS cameras and SADA II.

Sofradir's manufacturing facilities are located in Veurey-Voroize, near Grenoble, France. Sofradir and Ulis employ 360 people.