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Underwriters Laboratories Signed MOU With Industrial Technology Research Institute in Taiwan to Develop Safety Requirements for Electric Vehicles

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Taipei, Taiwan, March 17, 2010 (ots/PRNewswire) - Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL), a world leader in product safety testing and certification services, today signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Taiwan's globally renowned Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI) to develop safety testing methodologies and requirements for power systems in electric vehicles.

The electric vehicle (EV) industry has become a major emerging focus worldwide. One of the critical factors driving the widespread adoption of EVs is product safety. To address product safety concerns and to help EV manufacturers to get their new products to the global market timely and efficiently, UL has been developing new safety standards for the EV industry.

"We expect our alliance with ITRI, the organization that has leading R&D capabilities and strong industry ties, to accelerate Taiwan's development of electric vehicles that combine performance and security," said Gary Savin, UL's vice president and general manager of global power & controls business. "We are contributing our technological expertise, which is backed by more than a century of experience in safety testing, certification and standards development."

After releasing a new set of requirements for electric vehicle charges in 1998, UL has been delivering a broad range of testing solutions and safety standards for electric vehicles and associated components. In the next five years, UL and ITRI plan to develop testing methodologies for safety of electric vehicles, including charging systems (on and off-vehicle), power batteries, and electric power systems.

"UL's expertise in testing and certification services will further strengthen our efforts in developing integrated technologies in electric vehicles," said ITRI President Johnsee Lee. "We believe the partnership with UL will capitalize on Taiwan's excellent industrial base in car electronics and stimulate progress and innovation on safety standards, product design, and testing methodologies in electric vehicles, giving Taiwan manufacturers significant enhancements for product quality and time-to-market."

In 2009 UL also established the Advanced Energy Safety Center (AESC) to conduct research for safety of emerging technologies in Taiwan. AESC focuses on safety-testing technologies that support development of EV power systems as well as systems that generate power from renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind.

About Underwriters Laboratories

UL is an independent product safety certification organization that has been testing products and writing Standards for Safety for more than a century. UL evaluates more than 19,000 types of products, components, materials and systems from more than 66,000 manufacturers each year. In total, there are more than 20 billion UL Marks appearing on products worldwide. UL's global family of companies and network of service providers includes 68 laboratory, testing and certification facilities serving customers in 102 countries. For more information, visit: <http://www.ul.com/newsroom>

About Industrial Technology Research Institute

The Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI) is a nonprofit R&D organization engaging in applied research and technical services. Founded in 1973, ITRI has played a vital role in transforming Taiwan's economy from a labor-intensive industry to a high-tech industry.

Numerous well-known high-tech companies in Taiwan, such as leaders in the semiconductor industry TSMC and UMC can all trace their origins to ITRI. For more information, visit: <http://www.itri.org.tw/eng/>

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