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## Press Release

October 17, 2011

### Toyota announces sustainable battery recycling agreement in Europe

**Toyota Motor Europe (TME) today announced that it has signed a three-year framework agreement (2011-2014) with the Société Nouvelle d’Affinage des Métaux (SNAM), based in France, for the European-wide take back and sustainable recycling of high voltage industrial nickel-metal hydride (NiMH) batteries.**

Since 2000, some 370,000 Toyota and Lexus full hybrid vehicles have been sold in Europe – all of which are equipped with NiMH batteries to drive the electric motor. A cornerstone in Toyota’s environmental activities is the protection of natural resources, making sustainable recycling of high voltage batteries a key priority, with the aim of decreasing everything from energy consumption to emission of greenhouse gasses, and the reduction in disposing hazardous materials. Under the agreement, SNAM will ensure that the process for the treatment of NiMH batteries through the optimal recycling channels will ensure the maximum output on secondary raw materials.

The agreement between TME and SNAM also ensures recovered NiMH batteries can be taken back from any of Toyota’s European operations, including: Toyota’s European head office in Belgium, any of the nine manufacturing facilities in seven countries, 30 National Marketing and Sales Companies (NMSCs), over 3,000 Toyota and Lexus dealerships, as well as any authorised end-of-life vehicle treatment operator.

Toyota’s approach to conform with the European Commission “Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe” and the European Union (EU) “Raw Material Initiative” meets the highest environmental, safety standards, and social expectations, making Toyota one of the first to take such an initiative. The framework agreement with SNAM complies with all requirements set out by the EU Battery Directive.

On a national level, SNAM will provide all required documentation to NMSCs, such as reports on recycling efficiency) to ensure accurate and timely reporting to national authorities in accordance with the Battery Directive.

The take back and treatment of industrial batteries in Europe is regulated by the EU Battery Directive 2006/66/EC which came into force on September 26, 2006, requiring Member States to transpose into national legislation within two years. Although the Directive specifies no particular collection targets for industrial batteries, recycling efficiency targets must reach a weight minimum of 50% as of September, 2011.

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#### **About Société Nouvelle d’Affinage des Métaux (SNAM):**

SNAM was formed as an offshoot of the metallurgical industry in 1981, and from the 1990s has established itself as a major player in recycling. SNAM’s wealth of experience and renowned expertise make it one of few companies in the world to have mastered the techniques for processing batteries and accumulators. A subsidiary of the Floridienne Group (chemistry division), SNAM is a company enjoying continuous growth: European environmental 14001 Certification; acquisition of specialised subsidiaries (sorting of mixed batteries, galvanisation processes, etc). For more information, visit [www.snam.com](http://www.snam.com)

#### **Notes to the editors:**

Toyota Motor Europe NV/SA (TME) oversees the wholesale sales and marketing of Toyota and Lexus vehicles, parts and accessories, and Toyota’s European manufacturing and engineering operations. Toyota directly and indirectly employs around 94,000 people in Europe and has invested over €7 billion since 1990. Toyota’s operations in Europe are supported by a network of 30 National Marketing

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and Sales Companies across 56 countries, a total of around 3,000 sales outlets, and nine manufacturing plants. In 2010, Toyota sold 808,311 Toyota and Lexus vehicles in Europe. For more information, visit [www.toyota.eu](http://www.toyota.eu)

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