



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Anthony Toderian
Senior Media Relations Officer
CSA Group
T: 416-747-2620
E: anthony.toderian@csagroup.org

CSA GROUP INCREASES GLOBAL CERTIFICATION AND TESTING CAPABILITIES WITH ACQUISITION OF UK-BASED SIRA

- A European-based World Leader in the Hazardous Locations Testing Business -

Toronto, ON –July 3 – Robert M. Griffin, President and CEO, CSA Group, today officially announces that CSA Group has acquired SIRA Test and Certification Limited, a world leader in the conformity assessment solutions field which specializes in the testing of safety equipment used in potentially explosive atmospheres, and three affiliated companies. Four SIRA companies: SIRA Test and Certification Limited (STC); SIRA Certification Service (SCS); SIRA Environmental (SEL); and SIRA Consulting Limited (SCL), formerly owned by Volvere plc (LON:VLE) of London, the United Kingdom were acquired as part of the agreement for an initial cash consideration of £ 8M. SIRA will operate as a business division of CSA International and the SIRA brand will be retained and used in conjunction with the CSA International brand.

“The decision to acquire four SIRA companies is in alignment with CSA Group’s strategic objective to be among the world’s largest safety certifiers and is a component of CSA International’s business strategy to focus on Hazardous Locations testing,” says Mr. Griffin. “As a combined company we will extend to our clients facilitated access to European, North American and other markets, in a specific fast-growing and complex testing business. Adding SIRA will serve as an important building block in the global expansion of CSA International’s Hazardous Locations testing business and service offerings.”

SIRA has been at the forefront of Hazardous Locations business for more than 25 years. SIRA is the UK’s leading Notified Body (appointed by the United Kingdom government) specializing in testing and certification of equipment intended for use in potentially explosive atmospheres. SIRA has issued more than 3,000 product certificates, including more than 1,800 ATEX (Atmosphères Explosibles) certificates and is also among the top certification bodies issuing IECEx (International Trade of Electrical Equipment used in Explosive Atmospheres) certificates of conformity.

“CSA International is the best fit for overall growth in terms of company culture, shared business vision and SIRA’s positioning as a part of a leading global certification and testing organization,” says Mike Shearman, Managing Director, SIRA. “It is a perfect strategic business fit that will benefit our clients not only in the certification service of products used within explosive atmospheres, but also in certification solutions in the areas of water and air emissions and specialized training. Jointly SIRA and CSA International extend their lead in the hazardous location and environmental certification markets.”

SIRA examines and tests equipment against both European standards (EN) for ATEX Directive 94/9/EC, and International (IEC) standards for an IECEx Certificate of Conformity. SIRA also issues UKAS accredited product certification against a range of other British, European and International standards, as well as issues reports against other approval body standards.

Headquartered in Chester, and with labs/offices in Bakewell and Crayford, the United Kingdom, the SIRA companies employ 55 people, including specialized engineers and management. CSA Group has taken measures to ensure that the transfer in ownership will result in a seamless transition of services and employment for SIRA employees and SIRA clients. The acquisition was enabled through the strategic M&A advisory firm of WAIN Management, Paris, France.

For more information on SIRA or CSA International please visit: www.siracertification.com
www.csa-international.org or www.gethazloc.com

About CSA Group

CSA Group is an independent, not-for-profit membership association serving business, industry, government and consumers. CSA Group consists of three divisions: CSA Standards, a leading standards-based solutions organization, providing standards development, application products, training and advisory services; CSA International, which provides testing and certification services for electrical, mechanical, plumbing, gas and a variety of other products; and OnSpeX, a provider of consumer product evaluation, inspection and advisory services for retailers and manufacturers. For more, visit www.csagroup.org