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## **Bahrain Economic Development Delegation Visits Quallion Facility; Part of Four Day Visit to U.S.**

*Bahrain's Ambassador to the U.S. & CEO of Bahrain Economic Development Board among Delegation*

**Sylmar, Calif. (Oct. 3, 2011)** – Today, a delegation from Bahrain's Economic Development Board met with executives at Quallion LLC, the world leader in the development of customized lithium ion batteries, to tour the manufacturing facility and communicate the kingdom's objectives for future commercial business relationships with U.S. businesses. Among the members that met with Quallion executives was the ambassador for the Embassy of Bahrain to the U.S., HE. Houda Ezra Ebrahim Nonoo, and chief executive of the Bahrain Economic Development Board, Mohammed Bin Essa Al Kalifa.

The delegation is in its first day of a four day tour of the U.S., with plans to visit several commercial businesses within the Los Angeles and Minneapolis areas to convey Bahrain's business strengths and its ongoing attractiveness as an investment destination.

"Bahrain is positioned in a region rich with traditional energy sources, and the deployment of novel energy storage technologies can ensure its continued economic leadership as the world looks to renewable sources of energy," said Alex Fay, business development manager at Quallion LLC.

### **About Quallion LLC**

The company designs, fabricates and manufactures state-of-the-art lithium ion cells and battery packs, and develops new battery chemistries for the military, aerospace, medical and automotive industries. Building on its legacy leadership position in the medical device industry, the company has developed a range of novel enabling technologies that include the world's smallest implantable secondary battery and the proprietary Zero-Volt™ and SaFE-LYTE™ technologies. Leveraging its core engineering capabilities, Quallion has established itself as a leader in applications where advanced battery technology, safety, reliability and custom engineering are most valued. Quallion LLC was founded in 1998 by biotechnology and aerospace entrepreneur Alfred E. Mann and lithium ion battery specialist Dr. Hishashi Tsukamoto. For more information about Quallion, visit [www.quallion.com](http://www.quallion.com).

### **Overview of Bahrain Economy**

In Bahrain, petroleum production and processing account for about 60% of export receipts, 60% of government revenues, and 30% of GDP. Economic conditions have fluctuated with the changing fortunes of oil since 1985, for example, during and following the Gulf War of 1990-91. With its highly developed communication and transport facilities, Bahrain is home to numerous multinational firms with business in the Persian Gulf. A large share of exports consists of petroleum products made from imported crude. Construction proceeds on several major industrial projects. Unemployment, especially among the young, and the depletion of both oil and underground water resources are major long-term economic problems. According to the 2011 Index of Economic Freedom, Bahrain has the freest economy in the Middle East and North Africa region and is tenth overall in the world. An alternative index, published by the Fraser Institute, puts Bahrain in 44th place tied with 7 other countries.

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