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Press Release

Thuraya XT Best Satellite Handheld in Everest Region, say Expeditionists

Abu Dhabi, 16th February 2010: Over many years now, mountaineering adventurers and professional expeditionists generally seek a Thuraya satellite handheld phone when embarking on a new journey. These teams often spend long periods in remote and risky areas, and as such are in critical need for a reliable and handy means of communications to remain in contact with family and associates, and more importantly be able to easily make a call during emergencies.

According to a prominent US-based website for international expeditionists and mountaineers 'Explorers Web,' "Nine out of ten climbers use Thuraya handheld phones in the Himalaya region." This preference for Thuraya handhelds reflects an experienced view of a segment whose reliance on the phone could mount to a matter of life and death.

Arnold Coster, a professional mountaineer who has climbed Mount Everest twice and organises climbing expeditions on several continents through his company 'Outware Treks and Expeditions' said, "Having a Thuraya XT phone with me in my journey last autumn in the Everest region gave me great feelings of security and connectivity."

"I was aware of Thuraya's previous handheld phones and used them many times. And when I heard about the latest XT phone and its new features, I rushed to get one from Xtralink, one of Thuraya's service providers. It's now part of my main kit for traveling or operating in any remote or harsh environment," added Coster.

Technically speaking, a Thuraya senior engineer said the Company's coverage and service quality across the 140-country footprint is the same. "Indeed, the fact that Thuraya's voice and data quality even in high terrain areas like the Himalayas is excellent is an indication that service quality in other normal areas is super," he explained.

He also elaborated that Thuraya's congestion-free network provides users further assurance that their data communications are highly reliable wherever they maybe.

Branded as the world's toughest satellite phone, Thuraya XT enabled Coster to communicate regularly and update on-line news of his expedition despite being located in extremely rough terrain. He mentioned that, "Thuraya has the best coverage for my kind of job which frequently involves traveling to the Himalayas and Central Asia. In my last trip, I climbed three peaks, one in Tibet and two in the Everest region, namely Nepal Mera Peak



and Baruntse. Most of these peaks are located in remote areas where a link to the outside world becomes so critical.”

Coster added that having Thuraya XT helped him to save the life of a member of the expedition suffering from appendicitis and required immediate medical attention. By making a call with his Thuraya XT Coster was able to quickly arrange for a helicopter pick up.

An important feature of Thuraya XT is its size and weight. “The sheer size and weight of the device makes it easy for a mountaineer to fit it comfortably in his gear pocket,” elaborated Coster.

Thuraya XT is the world’s toughest satellite phone because of its IP54/IK03 certification making it the only satellite phone that is splash water, dust and shock proof. It is specifically designed to be rugged for users who are confronted with harsh environments. It has unrivalled battery life with a talk time of up to six hours and a standby time of up to 80 hours. Despite its ruggedness it has a very user-friendly menu which provides users with access to applications including internet, GPS and SMS services.

Coster said “Thuraya XT is a very efficient and rugged phone that is durable and operational under all circumstances. The phone enabled me to make voice calls as well as update my mountain climb onto a website by providing news and pictures. Data transfer is reliable with good speeds. As a phone, I think Thuraya XT is great for outdoor activities. What adds to its usability is the fact that the menu is very easy to use and the battery life is long-lasting and sufficient.”

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About Thuraya (www.thuraya.com)

Thuraya provides cost-effective mobile satellite services in more than 140 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, Australia and the Middle East. Services provided by Thuraya include mobile voice that support dual GSM and satellite mode, broadband, maritime, rural telephony, fleet management and other advanced applications that enable people and businesses everywhere under its coverage to enjoy constant access to communications and information. Thuraya enhances sectors such as oil and gas, mining, agriculture, NGOs and maritime services through its cutting edge technology.

The Company launched its third satellite in January 2008, which has brought countries of the Asia-Pacific region under its footprint and extended its coverage to nearly two thirds of the globe’s population.

Thuraya was founded in 1997 by a consortium of leading national telecommunications operators and reputed investment firms from the region.

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