

Thuraya furthers expeditions into Eurasian hinterlands

Thuraya provided communication support for Aleksey Yakovlev's explorations in the Russian Commonwealth, with a satellite broadband terminal and a satellite phone

Case Study:

Thuraya LeisureComms

Products:

*Thuraya XT-PRO DUAL and
Thuraya IP+*

Locations :

Ural region in Russia and other CIS countries

Aleksey Yakovlev:

A Russian mountaineer, specialized in expeditions across the Urals and surrounding territories

Equipped with Thuraya's XT-PRO DUAL satellite phone, Yakovlev has seamless voice and internet connectivity in GSM-covered and out-of-bounds regions alike. The phone's navigational systems - GPS, Glonass, Galileo and BeiDou - deliver an unparalleled connectivity experience even in the least explored Eurasian terrains.



At its highest points, the Ural peaks extend over 1,895m above sea-level and can experience up to 1,000cm of snowfall at temperatures of -50 degrees Celsius; the terrain ranges from coarse, flat steppes to dense forest landscapes on steep turf. Climbers face similar, and at times more severe conditions, in the Caucasus mountains along Southeastern Europe and West Asia - its highest peak, Mount Elbrus, extends over 5,642m and the region is regularly prone to earthquakes and volcanic activity. Given that terrestrial networks and GSM coverage in these parts range from intermittent to nonexistent, mobile satellite services are the best and at times, only option for communication.

Perm is a Russian city along the western foothills of the Ural Mountain, nestled between Europe and Central Asia. It is here that adventurer Aleksey Yakovlev resides, conveniently situated to set off on expeditions of his homeland and surrounding countries. Yakovlev is quite familiar with the Urals, having spent years exploring its old ranges and widely uncharted polar terrain. Fatigued from the daily monotony of office work, Yakovlev decided in 2008 to make his childhood passion of exploring mountain territories his full-time job.

In order to support himself and visit many places, Yakovlev started out by guiding commercial mountain tours; he, however, much prefers journeys with a small, tight-knit group - "In

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non-commercial expeditions, I have more time to photograph and do my research. I like the work done in a small team of like-minded people a lot more." He adds, "In these instances, it's so essential to have a telecom service that goes beyond boundaries and helps you stay always in touch for safety and security reasons." This enduring fascination for scaling remote regions is what led him to Thuraya, where he found the support and vital communication equipment he required for his perilous trips to areas that transcend terrestrial networks and GSM coverage.

Delving into adventure with Thuraya's 'always-on' connectivity

For trekkers and expeditionists like Yakovlev, who frequent distant, harsh and cold regions, mobile satellite

communication is the only method for contact with base camps, family and friends, ensuring steady connectivity for regular to urgent communication and navigational requirements.

Facilitated by Thuraya's equipment, Yakovlev was able to go on a number of significant adventures. His trips include an expedition to Armenia and the Armenian areas of Nagorno-Karabakh in May 2017, with ascent to the 4,085m high Aragats volcano; a June expedition to the Vishersky Nature Reserve, with ascent to the Tulimsky ridge - the highest point of the Perm region in the Ural Mountains at 1,469m high; an expedition from the Manpupuner plateau to the Mansiysk Pillars - one of the seven wonders of Russia, located in the Urals; an ongoing trip to the Subpolar Urals, with ascent to



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Narodnaya and the Manaraga mountains - the highest points in the Urals, offering the region's most spectacular vistas.

XT-PRO DUAL & IP+ in the Russian Commonwealth

With its reliable L-band network delivering uninterrupted coverage across two-thirds of the world, Thuraya assists diverse organizations, governments and individuals with the advanced capabilities of satellite-based communication. After connecting with Thuraya in early 2017, Aleksey Yakovlev received an XT-PRO DUAL satellite phone and IP+ broadband terminal, empowering him to expand his missions further into faraway, desolate regions in Russia and Central Asia.

Designed for seamless connectivity on all kinds of remote operations, the XT-PRO DUAL is the first dual mode, dual SIM satellite phone that offers an 'always-on' capability for both satellite and GSM SIMs, delivering up to 11 hours talk-time and 100 hours of standby time. Among its four navigational systems, the XT-PRO DUAL offers Glonass - a navigational tool developed in Russia, with exclusively detailed applications for use in the country and surrounding regions. The XT-PRO DUAL ensured that Yakovlev had instant voice access for any communication with teams and family, and most importantly, helped him get the latest weather forecasts in preparation for the route ahead.

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The compact, portable and extremely light IP+ terminal, delivers IP speeds at 444Kbps standard and 384Kbps streaming, is durable in the harshest environments and can instantly deploy from backpack to broadband; this enabled Yakovlev to document his unique experiences, enhancing his ability to gather information and share real-time experiences via HD video, image and data transfers over satellite connectivity.

"Thuraya's device capabilities impressed me"

Yakovlev remarks on the excellent coverage that the Thuraya equipment provided on his trips, even at high altitudes. "Thuraya's service works perfectly and without any disruptions in the places I visited in 2017, including the Ural regions, Perm Krai, Komi Republic, Samara region, Volgograd region, Republic of Kalmykia, Republic of North Ossetia, Georgia, Armenia, and the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh." Talking about

the service signal, he specifies, "When observing the necessary access conditions such an open sky above your head for GPS, an open horizon towards the equator, Thuraya's signal is stable and the service is fully operational."

In regard to the XT-PRO DUAL, Yakovlev says it is convenient to have one phone for communication in various networks and has so far used two SIM cards: SAT-Thuraya and GSM-Tele2. He constantly uses the basic functions on the phone such as outgoing voice calls and SMS. Also, he often uses the tracking button on the side of the phone to send an SMS message with coordinates to a pre-defined number so as to alert his base camp team on his whereabouts.

Working with ease in the mountains

As a tech-savvy, photography enthusiast, Yakovlev is quite diligent about sending regular hi-res footage



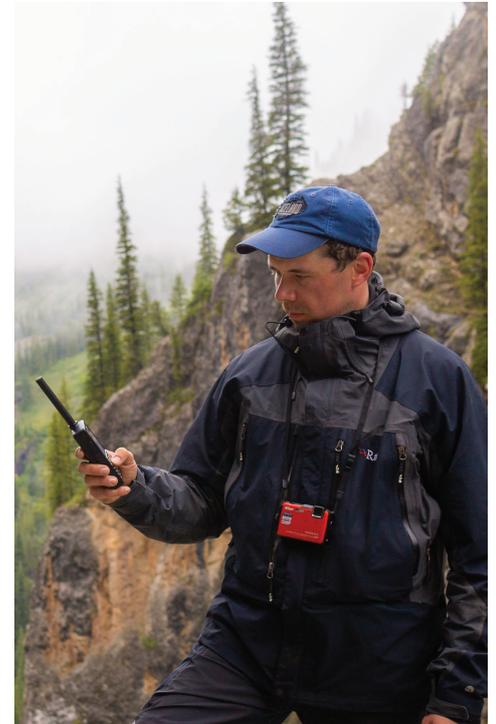
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and images of his expeditions in pristine, untouched areas, via the high data speeds and connectivity convenience of the IP+ terminal, and cloud storage. He says, "I used the Thuraya IP+ terminal on a daily basis, both in the morning and in the evening, and also constantly used it to enjoy an almost 'at-home' work experience via email and video conferences. While internet-on-the-move is great, for convenience sake, I refrained from using the device while driving and opted instead to use it more effectively during stops along the way."

"Even in difficult weather conditions, Thuraya's satellite connection did not let me down," Yakovlev asserts. He recounts a recent incident: "Between July 1 to July 3, 2017, there was a storm at the Tulimsky pass with dense fog, rain and wind force of up to 80 km/h. Though many of us struggled to stand firm on our feet, the Thuraya IP+ worked very well and allowed us to still send across a few videos for social media purposes."

The adventurer will continue his expeditions in Russia and around the world and is excited to discover and showcase the hidden beauties of nature to people everywhere. He adds, "I hope to continue using various Thuraya mobile satellite devices during my adventures and wish to help adapt existing solutions for ordinary users and develop their effectiveness among rural communities."



Yakovlev has helped Thuraya gain a deeper understanding of how its equipment functions in the Russian Commonwealth and has nurtured the company's relevance in these markets, especially via the social media and press coverage of his expeditions.

Thuraya phones & IP terminals:
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