

Worst floods in 50 years lead to greater demand for satellite phones

London, July 2007: International satellite communications provider NSSL is reporting an upsurge in demand for handheld satellite phones since major flooding hit large parts of the UK. The emergency services and media have led the increase in enquiries as traditional cellular networks have struggled to cope with traffic demand and the threat of



flooding at base stations. The power supplies of 500,000 homes are under threat and 10,000 homes have already been flooded. With power stations down, phone sockets blown, and mobile phone masts out of action the need for communication equipment independent of local infrastructure has become even greater.

Danielle Edwards, Product Marketing Manager at NSSL said: “Floods can have a catastrophic effect on the communication systems we all rely on, even in advanced countries like the UK. GSM phone masts get destroyed in the storms and electricity cuts prevent mainline telephone lines from working. Only satellite phones provide a reliable alternative, saving lives and helping families keep in contact.”



Demand has been particularly strong from the emergency services as they need unhindered access to geographically marginalised villages and towns throughout the UK, many of which do not even have mobile phone coverage. NSSL has also experienced increased demand from corporate

executives who need to keep in touch with the office. The most popular models have

been the Iridium and Thuraya handheld phones, with Inmarsat set to launch their handheld service later this year.

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Notes for editors

About NSSL

Established in 1969, NSSL Ltd is an independent service provider for satellite communications solutions, and one of the top Inmarsat service providers worldwide. With a wide range of services and extensive experience of systems integration and application development, its focus is on the maritime, government, energy, media, finance and corporate sectors. The company provides voice, data and broadband solutions anywhere in the world. Based in the UK, NSSL has offices in the US, Houston, Singapore and a network of agents and engineers worldwide to provide service support to its global customer base.

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