

UK ARMED FORCES ATTEMPT TRAVERSE OF WORLDS 5TH HIGHEST PEAK WITH LATEST SATCOMS!

London, May 2008: A team of British forces personnel is attempting the first ever successful traverse of Makalu! The Himalayan Mountain, the fifth highest peak in the world, is to be scaled this May 2008 via the South East Ridge. The personnel will then traverse down the North East Ridge. The team will make use of the latest in satellite



communications technology from NSSL, allowing them to stay in contact with base camp, call in emergency support and update the expedition website with diary entries and videos.

No climbing team has ever managed to traverse Makalu. Even Sir Edmund Hillary failed to reach the summit twice. As well as the lead team attempting to smash the world record, one other team of British servicemen will attempt to summit the mountain via a different route. The overall objective of the adventure is to develop the decision making skills, endurance and fitness of the British servicemen involved, as well as supporting local charities through sponsorship.

NSSL is providing:

- Four Broadband Global Area Network (BGAN) terminals for the mission. BGAN represents the latest in satellite communications providing voice and data to users globally via a small portable device connected to a laptop.
- Four Iridium handheld phones. The Iridium constellation provides for global voice coverage at 2.4kb/s.
- Two solar panels. These small portable devices can be set up when convenient to provide on-demand power to the Iridium and BGAN
- User training
- 24 hour support. A dedicated team of highly skilled engineers is only a phone call away should the team have any technical difficulties.

RAF squadron leader Emily Flynn, head of communications for the expedition, commented: "Expeditions like these are of huge interest to the public and without support from companies like NSSL we couldn't hope to reach so many supporters. The BGAN units will allow us to provide a constant flow of information to the public, chronicling our every step as if they were with us. More importantly, they will provide an essential communication tool should we run into trouble."

Danielle Edwards, Product Marketing Manager at NSSL commented: "We are delighted to be providing this equipment to the British armed forces expedition. The equipment will not only allow the public and relatives to be kept up to date with the teams progress but provide the reassurance that help is only a call away should anything go wrong."

www.makalu2008.org/Home.aspx

www.satcom-solutions.com/

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Notes for editors

About NSSL

Established in 1969, NSSL Ltd is an independent service provider for satellite communications solutions. With a wide range of services and extensive experience of systems integration, network management and application development, our focus is on providing communication and IT solutions to the maritime, government, energy, media, finance and corporate sectors. NSSL is based in the UK and has a network of engineers and service agents worldwide to provide in country support to its global customer base.

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