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## **ANTARCTIC CRUISE SHIPS RELY ON IRIDIUM SATELLITE TRACKING**

BETHESDA, Md. – September XX, 2009 – The International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO) has approved a resolution requiring members’ passenger ships to be fitted with Iridium Satellite LLC (Iridium)-based satellite tracking devices that will report their position at least once per hour when cruising in Antarctic waters.

Global Marine Networks (GMN), an Iridium Value-Added Reseller, is supplying its XTracker(TM) satellite position reporting system for installation on the IAATO vessels. XTracker uses Iridium’s short-burst data (SBD) service to transmit position reports from the ships at sea to a shore-based server, which can be accessed through a secure Internet connection by ship operators, search-and-rescue authorities and other authorized users.

“Iridium is the only maritime satellite communication network that can reach ships sailing in Antarctic waters,” said Greg Ewert, executive vice president of global distribution channels for Iridium. “Iridium’s constellation of cross-linked low-earth orbiting (LEO) satellites provides global pole-to-pole coverage and low-latency data links with compact lightweight data devices, making it the ideal solution for tracking ships, aircraft, vehicles and even individuals in remote and potentially dangerous regions of the world.”

“We have developed an outstanding working relationship with IAATO and its members over the last several years,” said Dr. Luis Soltero, **CTO**, GMN. “Many IAATO members are already using XTracker, and we welcome IAATO’s decision to require our Iridium-based tracking systems on the growing number of ships sailing in the beautiful – but hazardous – waters of the Antarctic.”

“Our members have voted to require automatic ship reporting as part of our organization’s commitment to safe and environmentally responsible private-sector travel to

Antarctica,” said Steve Wellmeier, executive director of IAATO. “We recognize that climate change poses the most significant threat to the Antarctic environment, and we are adopting this mandate, in conjunction with other measures, to improve safety of navigation and provide an important tool for search-and-rescue authorities in the event of an incident.”

### **About Iridium Satellite LLC**

Iridium Satellite LLC ([www.iridium.com](http://www.iridium.com)) is the only mobile satellite service (MSS) company offering coverage over the entire globe. The Iridium constellation of LEO cross-linked satellites provides critical voice and data services for areas not served by terrestrial communication networks. Iridium’s subscriber growth has been driven by increasing demand for reliable, global communications. Iridium serves commercial markets through a worldwide network of hundreds of distributors, and provides services to the U.S. Department of Defense, and other U.S. and international government agencies. The company’s customers represent a broad spectrum of industry, including maritime, aeronautical, government/defense, public safety, utilities, oil/gas, mining, forestry, heavy equipment and transportation. Iridium has launched a major development program for its next-generation satellite constellation, Iridium NEXT, which will result in continued and new Iridium MSS offerings. The company is headquartered in Bethesda, Md., U.S. and is currently privately held.

### **About GMN**

Headquartered in Maryville, Tenn., Global Marine Networks LLC ([www.globalmarinenet.com](http://www.globalmarinenet.com)) provides fast, reliable and cost-effective data communication services and products to ships and other remote users worldwide. The company's customer segments include global transportation, commercial fishing, oil and gas, government, forestry and individual recreational users. GMN's products and services include award-winning, high-speed, wireless e-mail for satellite phones, cell phones and HF/SSB radio; vessel tracking; comprehensive weather forecasts via WeatherNet; gridded binary (GRIB) weather files; enhanced performance and Web browsing with XWeb; Web hosting targeted for those in remote locations; and national unlimited dial-up access.

### **About IAATO**

IAATO ([www.iaato.org](http://www.iaato.org)) is a member organization founded in 1991 to advocate, promote and practice safe and environmentally responsible private-sector travel to the Antarctic. IAATO currently has 100 members worldwide. Members work together to develop, adopt and implement

operational standards that mitigate potential environmental impacts. Numerous operating procedures and guidelines have been adopted over the last 19 years that have proven to be successful methods for avoiding impacts, including site-specific guidelines, site selection criteria, passenger-to-staff ratios, limiting numbers of passengers ashore, boot-washing guidelines and the prevention of alien organisms, wilderness etiquette, garbage policy, ship scheduling and vessel communications procedures, emergency medical evacuation procedures, emergency contingency plans, reporting procedures, marine wildlife watching guides, station visitation policies and more.

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