McMurdo launches innovative Personal AIS Beacon at Miami International Boat Show

McMurdo will launch the Smartfind S10 Automatic Identification System (AIS) Beacon at the Miami International Boat Show in conjunction with new US Distributor, Survitec Survival Products Inc., Booth No.065. This innovative personal safety device incorporates both AIS and GPS technology which, when manually activated, gives precise location information to aid the recovery of persons in difficulty at sea. It is designed to be carried by divers, boat crews, or anyone who spends time on the water for leisure or work.

Waterproof, buoyant and compact, this unique device can make all the difference in a search and rescue situation. The chances of being rescued are greatly increased thanks to its ability to transmit both AIS and GPS data to all AIS receiver–equipped vessels and land based VTS (Vessel Traffic Services) stations within a 4 mile radius. The first of its kind, the Smartfind S10 AIS Beacon features an inbuilt high precision GPS receiver, and transmits target survivor information, including structured alert messages, GPS position information, and a unique serialised identity number. Bearing, range and location information are accurately transmitted and displayed on the AIS receiver or plotter screen, giving potential rescuers all the information they require to carry out swift retrieval of an individual. The Smartfind S10 AIS Beacon will transmit continuously for a minimum of 24 hours, regularly updating position information, and has excellent longevity thanks to its five year battery storage life. Waterproof to 60m, it also features a flashing LED light to assist with visual fixing and night–time location. Measuring 9.7” x 1.7” and weighing just 5.29oz, it is small and light, making it easily portable. The beacon is easy to activate, with a simple two–stage activation function that can be used, even when wearing gloves. The Smartfind S10 AIS Beacon will be available from Q2 2011, with a retail price of 349US$ + TAX, £199 + VAT, €225 + TAX. This device has not been authorized as required by the rules of the Federal Communications Commission. This device is not and may not be offered for sale or lease, or sold or leased, until authorization is obtained.