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Press Release

Thuraya Starts launching Aeronautical Communication Service

Abu Dhabi, 11th August 2010: In line with its expansion strategy, Thuraya Telecommunications Company announced today the launch of its first satellite aeronautical service, offering reliable and cost-effective voice communications on board all types of aircraft.

The initial service offering is based on Thuraya's compact narrowband terminal which provides voice, fax and 9.6Kbps circuit switch data, as well as GmPRS data at speeds of up to 60 Kbps. Although announced only recently, the solution is already installed and operational onboard over 200 helicopters and business jets.

Branded AviationComms, Thuraya has a plan to introduce a complete portfolio of aeronautical services. Set to be the smallest system in the market, the new solutions will enable both voice and data communications for pilots, crew and passengers alike.

A broadband terminal is currently in development and, upon completion during the last quarter this year, will provide higher data speeds of up to 444 Kbps in standard mode and up to 384 Kbps in streaming mode, as well as voice and optional onboard GSM services.

Based on hardware developed by French-based aeronautical services specialist SATSYS, Thuraya AviationsComms boasts a compact design fitting all types of aircraft across military, commercial and civil aviation segments. The terminal features a small antenna and a very light weight; resulting in significant weight and fuel saving compared to traditional terminals. Another core competitive feature of the service is that it is extremely cost-effective.

"Thuraya is proud to launch this service in a thriving sector such as the aeronautical communications. Like most of our products, we have ensured that the new solutions are compact, user-friendly, lightweight and affordable. This move reflects Thuraya's dynamic growth and expansion into new vertical markets," said Thuraya Chief Strategy Officer, Mr. Sultan Ahmed Al Ghafli.



Al Ghafli further highlighted the superior quality of voice and data services, thanks to Thuraya's robust network.

Thuraya's AviatonComms is available from select distribution partners.

About Thuraya (www.thuraya.com)

Thuraya provides cost-effective mobile satellite services in more than 140 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, Australia and the Middle East. Services provided by Thuraya include mobile voice that support dual GSM and satellite mode, broadband, maritime, rural telephony, fleet management and other advanced applications that enable people and businesses everywhere under its coverage to enjoy constant access to communications and information. Thuraya enhances sectors such as oil and gas, mining, agriculture, NGOs and maritime services through its cutting edge technology.

The Company launched its third satellite in January 2008, which has brought countries of the Asia-Pacific region under its footprint and extended its coverage to nearly two thirds of the globe's population.

Thuraya was founded in 1997 by a consortium of leading national telecommunications operators and reputed investment firms from the region.

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