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## **McMurdo Commissions Independently Witnessed Tests To Verify Ritter Findings**

**DELRAY BEACH, Fla., 4/19/03** — UK-based McMurdo Limited (McMurdo) announced today it was commissioning independently witnessed performance tests on the company's Precision 406 MHz GPS Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) and FastFind Plus 406 MHz Personal Location Beacon (PLB). McMurdo's tests are being commissioned to verify report findings issued by Doug Ritter, president of Equipped to Survive (Equipped).

“Our first priority is to our customers,” said Gary Mullins, managing director of McMurdo. “Like us, they will be confused and concerned by Doug's results. We don't understand his findings or why our products have been reported to perform as they did. As a result, we are commissioning our own independently witnessed tests to establish how our products perform under the same test conditions.

“If these new tests, which will be completed within the next 30 days, show the products perform as expected, and contradict Doug's report findings, the results will be published. If the product fails to meet our high performance standards, we will immediately take whatever action is required.”

Chris Hoffman, technical director of McMurdo added, “Our products meet all American approval requirements and fully comply with the FCC and RTCM standards. Doug's results appear to show our products did not acquire and transmit a GPS location. We are mystified by his results because our EPIRBs and PLBs were tested pre-trial and obtained GPS lock within two to three minutes. When independently tested elsewhere in the United States, Europe and Australia, the same products achieved GPS acquisition superior to that reported in his recent trials.”

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Hoffman added, “Customers can be confident that, whatever their GPS fix status, these McMurdo products will still transmit a distress alert, within three minutes, to the GEO-Stationary satellites for onward transmission to the rescue authorities. In the event that this alert does not contain GPS location, the position will subsequently be determined by the LEO satellite network.

“Going forward, a key element to our own investigation will be to undertake a detailed analysis of the beacons we supplied for testing. We have requested Doug return our beacons used in these trials although, up to this point, they are yet to be received.”

For more information visit McMurdo’s website at [www.mcmpw.com](http://www.mcmpw.com). Or contact the company at: McMurdo Pains Wessex, Inc. 200 Congress Park Drive, Suite 102, Delray Beach, FL 33445. Ph: 800-576-2605. Fax: 561-819-2650.

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