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Tampa Microwave Launches Man-portable X band Satellite Communications Terminal

TAMPA, Florida – September 18, 2009 – Tampa Microwave (TM), a veteran owned small business specializing in satellite communication systems, microwave modules, satellite link simulators and carrier monitoring equipment announces its entry into the Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) market with the introduction of two new MIL-SPEC products. TM's TM-X850MP X-band manpack satellite terminal and attached TM-ODM-850 outdoor modem module have been optimized for use by special operations forces operating in MIL-810F environmental conditions. The terminal achieves unsurpassed data rates, power output and battery life in a small package by eliminating multiple aluminum enclosures, interconnecting cables and connectors found in competing terminals packaged in COTS transit cases.

Intended for use with SKYNET, XTAR and WGS satellites, the TM-X850MP manpack features an extraordinary level of integration and thermal management. The architecture eliminates the need for separate microwave modules contained in a traditional transit case with forced air cooling. This high-level of integration has produced the smallest, highest data rate, militarized X band VSAT available. In recent tests from Tampa using the XTAR-LANT satellite, the TM-X850MP demonstrated a 2 Mbps data rate, twice that of comparable VSAT terminals operating from the same EIRP contour.

In order to facilitate changes in operations or technology, The TM-X850MP X-band manpack features separate modem and receiver/transmitter (R/T) modules that snap together using blind mate connectors. The terminal's modular design permits field changes to substitute alternative modems or Ku / Ka-band R/T's. Each X-band R/T module contains an integrated 0.4dB Noise Figure block downconverter (LNB), block upconverter (BUC), 16W (P1dB=43 dBm) Solid State Power Amplifier (SSPA), transmit band reject and transmit bandpass filters in a single chassis no larger than a laptop. The R/T module also provides a quick disconnect interface (without tools) between the 30 dBiC composite antenna and integrated Orthomode Transducer (OMT).

The TM-ODM-850 modem module contains an iDirect e850mp TDMA modem. It is the only full MIL-SPEC iDirect modem that does not require a cooling fan. The lack of a fan for R/T or modem cooling simplifies the design and improves terminal battery life. When transmitting at a typical 10% duty cycle, the terminal operates at full data rate for 6 hours on two BA-5590 batteries. The optional AC/DC terminal power supply holds four of these standard military power sources.

Obie Johnson, Vice President of Advanced Development for Tampa Microwave said, "The TM-X850MP terminal incorporates key features that are missing in all competing products we have examined. Our terminal was designed from the ground up for the dismounted soldier who will operate in inhospitable territory, who may jump, and then carry the manpack in his ruck sack. We provide a truly tactical X-band terminal for applications that require substantially higher data rates than commercial BGAN products."

Military or government agencies desiring terminal demonstrations should contact Tampa Microwave at (813) 855 2251.