

---

# PRESS RELEASE

---



Date: December 18, 2008  
Contact: John N. Thompson  
(858) 552-8131  
jthompson@sigeng.com

## **Multiple production options awarded to the Signal Engineering Team's US Air Force Personnel Locator Beacon production contract**

Signal Engineering, Inc. as Prime Contractor along with its major subcontractor Tadiran-Spectralink of Elisra from Holon, Israel (the Signal Team) has had exercised multiple production options on its existing contract to provide the U.S. Air force (USAF) with an advanced Personnel Locator Beacon (PLB) to replace the aging AN/URT-33 that is a part of the survival equipment issued to USAF aircrew. The Signal Team expects additional options will be awarded in 2009, with potential additional quantities ranging up to 18,000. These awards follow the successful completion of rigorous USAF field trials and environmental testing. The Signal Team met all required performance parameters.

The beacon, designated the AN/URT-44 – the most advanced PLB in the market –, provides satellite aided tracking Search and Rescue (SAR) capabilities in addition to multiple homing signals, to assist in the location and rescue of downed aircrew. The PLB contains a very fast acquisition GPS receiver that provides a rapid and accurate location of aircrew, even before their feet hit the ground, enabling a quick and safe rescue operation via COSPAS/SARSAT and geosynchronous satellites.

Signal Engineering is a San Diego, California based engineering designer and manufacturer of satellite transmitters and receivers and survival radios. Its partner, Tadiran-Spectralink, provides a global presence for the team as one of Israel's largest manufacturers of wireless communications systems for the defense market; together, they developed similar survival equipment, including the AN/URT 140 Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) and the AN/PRC-149 Personal Locator Beacon and Voice Transceiver (PLBVT) for the U.S. Navy. Tadiran-Spectralink complements Signal Engineering's design and development capabilities, making the team a strong integrated presence in the development, manufacturing and deployment of advanced SAR beacons throughout the world.

The current production options exercised by the USAF call for Signal Engineering and its team members to delivery some 4500 PLBs configured for the ACES II/III ejection seat and an additional 5000 PLBs configured for the BA-series parachute. Both configurations provide for automatic activation, either by the ejection seat cable or parachute activator.

The AN/URT-44 was developed under a successfully completed USAF contract awarded to the Signal Team in 2006. The development and production contracts were sponsored by the 77th Aeronautical Systems Group (AFMC), Brooks City-Base, Texas.