
PRESS RELEASE



Date: September 9, 2009
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Additional production options awarded to the Signal Engineering Team's US Air Force Personnel Locator Beacon production contract increases total quantity to 15, 129.

Signal Engineering, Inc. as Prime Contractor along with its major subcontractor Tadiran-Spectralink of Elisra from Holon, Israel (the Signal Team) has had exercised an option on its existing contract to provide the U.S. Air force (USAF) an additional 4,500 BA-series parachute configurations of its advanced Personnel Locator Beacon (PLB) designated the AN/URT-44. The AN/URT-44 is a replacement for the aging AN/URT-33 that is a part of the survival equipment issued to USAF aircrew. These added orders bring the total quantity of the AN/URT-44 to be delivered to the U.S. Air Force to 15,129. Two configurations of the PLB are included in the existing orders. 10,645 are for the BA-Series parachute installations and 4,484 are for the ACES II/III Advanced Concept Ejection Seat installations. Both configurations provide for automatic activation, either by the ejection seat cable or parachute activator. The Signal Team expects the remaining options will be awarded this year.

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.

The AN/URT-44 was developed under a successfully completed USAF contract awarded to the Signal Team in 2006. The current production contract was awarded in 2008. Production options on this contract began to be awarded when the AN/URT-44 successfully completed rigorous USAF field trials and environmental testing in the latter part of 2008. The AN/URT-44 met all required performance parameters. The development and production contracts were sponsored by the 77th Aeronautical Systems Group (AFMC), Brooks City-Base, Texas.