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## **EarthNC JOINS ARGUS DEVELOPMENT TEAM**

BELCAMP, MD (January 12, 2010) – The Maryland-based SURVICE Engineering Company is pleased to announce the addition of EarthNC, Inc., ([www.earthnc.com](http://www.earthnc.com)) to the ARGUS™ development team. ARGUS (which stands for Autonomous Remote Global Underwater Surveillance) is a SURVICE technology developed to acquire depth and position data from the chartplotters of vessels-of-opportunity, thus providing autonomous cooperative charting of inland and coastal waterways. EarthNC, based in Delray Beach, FL, is a privately held corporation with experience in spatial mapping systems development and the integration of static and dynamic data systems within the Google Earth framework.

The product goals of ARGUS and EarthNC, both of which are focused on the promotion of cooperative charting products, are well-aligned and will inherently complement each other. EarthNC provides the opportunity to demonstrate the complete cycle for the acquisition and distribution of ARGUS depth data. The established and easy-to-use EarthNC platform makes available to the marine community the collective ARGUS-processed data that the same marine community initially supplies.

Preparations for beta testing of the patent-pending ARGUS system are well under way. Team members Marine Satellite Systems (from Havre de Grace, MD) and GEOSat Solutions/Wave WiFi (from Hollywood, FL) are developing the autonomous beta onboard units that will acquire the relevant chartplotter and other sensor data, and then transmit the data to SURVICE using GEOSat's extended-range marine Wave WiFi system ([www.wavewifi.com](http://www.wavewifi.com)). SURVICE's Aberdeen Technology Operation (ATO) is developing the proprietary depth correction and data processing applications that will provide the combined results to EarthNC for subsequent distribution. ATO is also applying ARGUS to a related Navy research effort to develop autonomous hydrographic surveying methodologies for unmanned underwater vehicles.

In addition to providing a means for the throughput of vessel depth data, the onboard units will provide the vessels with WiFi connectivity that can be used for, among other things, email and Internet access. Beta units are expected to cost under \$1,000 each, and testing is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2010. The initial call for prospective beta testers has gained interest from commercial and recreational mariners from a wide range of coastal and inland waterways, including the Chesapeake Bay, the Gulf Coast, the Pacific Northwest, and the Great Lakes.

The ARGUS team is also pursuing the establishment of pilot networks to complement the beta testing efforts. Pilot networks will provide vessels that are geographically concentrated and will be used to refine initial effectiveness and cost projections. These initial projections were established during a 2008 demonstration conducted as part of a research effort funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). This effort proposed the ARGUS concept as a means to supplement and prioritize existing hydrographic surveying efforts. Pilot networks are being pursued in several port locations, including San Diego, Baltimore, and Norfolk.

In addition, the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Program, within the Center for Environment and Society at Washington College in Chestertown, MD, will be an integral part of pilot and later production networks. Washington College will house the ARGUS data repository within the Chesapeake Environmental Data Center, a joint SURVICE/Washington College initiative. The college will also provide academia-developed GIS interfacing and applications to serve the needs of the scientific community.

For additional information on ARGUS, go to <http://argus.survice.com>, or visit GEOSat Solutions/Wave WiFi and EarthNC at the Miami International Boat Show from February 11–15, 2010.

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