



Iridium Launches Breakthrough Alternative Global Positioning System (GPS) Service

MCLEAN, Va., May 23, 2016 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Iridium Communications Inc. (Nasdaq:IRDM) announced today the official launch of Satellite Time and Location (STL), an alternative or companion to traditional location-based technologies, and declared it ready for use. For the first time, end users now have access to accurate and resilient position, navigation and timing (PNT) technology that works anywhere on the planet, even indoors. Due to the unique architecture of its 66 cross-linked, low-earth orbit satellite constellation, Iridium® is the only network that has the global coverage and reliability needed to deliver this highly unique, robust and cost-effective solution to the market.

Since the inception of GPS technology in the late 1970s, it has been recognized as a powerful and critical tool for businesses and consumers worldwide. Unfortunately, with this recognition, the GPS infrastructure has become targeted by those looking to take advantage of its known vulnerabilities for illegal, and even criminal, purposes. STL technology deployed through Iridium satellites and in end user receivers, can work to verify GPS, Glonass, Galileo and other navigation services, and, if needed, substitute for these services should they become compromised. STL can protect, toughen and augment traditional GPS technology by providing a position or timing source when GPS signals are degraded or unavailable. It can also provide an alternative source of time to check the integrity of a GPS signal. This is essential for any kind of critical infrastructure that depends on GPS as a source of PNT information.

Iridium is working with Satelles, a division of iKare Corporation with offices in Herndon, Va. and Redwood City, Calif., as its primary technology partner to deliver this solution through Iridium's powerful paging channels, which are able to reach small, low-cost receivers in nearly any environment, even inside buildings. Satelles provides technology and services to companies that are commercializing this capability to protect assets, authenticate users, or do other important functions reliant on GPS time and location.

"We are very excited to launch yet another highly innovative solution that only our network can enable, which is now available today," said Matt Desch, chief executive officer at Iridium. "We think STL can help solve an important and growing problem for governments and businesses, and serve as a platform for continued innovation. With STL, we are introducing a global capability that is already in space, technologically ready for use and is independent of any particular location technology. The team at Satelles has been able to leverage the unique capabilities that our network offers, to create a solution that can ultimately be integrated into almost any kind of platform, including other Iridium machine-to-machine (M2M) devices, heavy machinery, automobiles and even the power grid, to name a few. Once implemented, STL could revolutionize the way the world's largest, global companies and governments operate and manage cyber security."

The technology has already been productized into a chip set about the size of a postage stamp and can be easily embedded into devices of all kinds. Due to STL's signal strength it can help make GPS systems more difficult to "spoof," which has been a growing risk for the current GPS infrastructure. The solution transmits its signals through Iridium's satellite constellation to deliver a unique code to each position on the ground that can be independently authenticated, proving that a device is located in a specific place in the world. This enables applications to be "location aware," allowing operation or access only if the user is in the location expected.

"We are honored to have been able to partner with Iridium to bring this technology to market," said Michael O'Connor, chief executive officer at Satelles. "The robustness and complexity of their network allowed us to create a unique solution that is in high-demand and solves many problems that exist today."

Greg Gutt, president and chief technology officer of Satelles adds, "Commercial users are now able to use STL to deliver trustworthy timing solutions for critical infrastructure, such as LTE networks, transactional data centers and the power grid.

Military and government users can also acquire these commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) solutions for the Department of Defense and other government applications."

"In addition to enhancing the security and resiliency of GPS, STL technology can be embedded into servers anywhere in the world to geo-fence data and applications, providing trusted time and location data as an independent factor for end-point authentication," said Gutt.

To date, the STL solution has been successfully demonstrated across multiple sectors including the military, academia and commercial applications. This technology is available today and will be supported by Iridium NEXT, the Iridium's next-generation global satellite constellation, which is scheduled for completion by late 2017.

About Iridium Communications Inc.

Iridium is the only mobile voice and data satellite communications network that spans the entire globe. Iridium enables connections between people, organizations and assets to and from anywhere, in real time. Together with its ecosystem of partner companies, Iridium delivers an innovative and rich portfolio of reliable solutions for markets that require truly global communications. The company has a major development program underway for its next-generation network — Iridium NEXT. Iridium Communications Inc. is headquartered in McLean, Va., U.S.A., and its common stock trades on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the ticker symbol IRDM. For more information about Iridium products, services and partner solutions, visit www.iridium.com.

Forward-Looking Statements

Statements in this press release that are not purely historical facts may constitute forward-looking statements as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. The Company has based these statements on its current expectations and the information currently available to us. Forward-looking statements in this presentation include statements regarding the development and capabilities of the Iridium NEXT constellation and the capabilities of satellite time and location services. Forward-looking statements can be identified by the words "anticipates," "may," "can," "believes," "expects," "projects," "intends," "likely," "will," "to be" and other expressions that are predictions or indicate future events, trends or prospects. These forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause the actual results, performance or achievements of Iridium to differ materially from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. These risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, uncertainties regarding development and functionality of Iridium NEXT and satellite time and location services, potential delays in the Iridium NEXT deployment, and the company's ability to maintain the health, capacity and content of its satellite constellation, as well as general industry and economic conditions, and competitive, legal, governmental and technological factors. Other factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated by the forward-looking statements include those factors listed under the caption "Risk Factors" in the Company's Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("the SEC") on February 25, 2016, as well as other filings Iridium makes with the SEC from time to time. There is no assurance that Iridium's expectations will be realized. If one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or if Iridium's underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results may vary materially from those expected, estimated or projected. Iridium's forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this press release, and Iridium undertakes no obligation to update forward-looking statements.

Press contact:

Diane Hockenberry
Iridium Communications Inc.
+1 (703) 287-7421
Diane.Hockenberry@iridium.com

