



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sicom Systems Ltd. Participates in International Ocean Surveillance Trial

Fonthill, Ontario, November 1, 2005 – Sicom Systems Ltd. has recently participated in one of the largest surveillance trials ever carried out in Canada. Sicom operated its Accipiter® radar system as part of the Maritime Sensor Integration Experiment (MARSIE) led by Defence R&D Canada (DRDC). DRDC requested Accipiter®'s participation in MARSIE in conjunction with other advanced sensors from around the world. The trial employed a variety of surveillance sensors following a planned incursion scenario where “contraband” cargo was loaded onto a container ship in the UK and was transferred several times to smaller vessels before arriving in Nova Scotia. Agencies from Canada, the United States and the UK were involved in MARSIE.

Accipiter® successfully tracked all of the targets involved in the trial. From its location on Janvrin Point, Nova Scotia, it not only reliably tracked all of the vessels involved in the simulated exchange of contraband in MacDonald's Cove including small zodiacs, RHIBs used by the RCMP, sail boats, and fishing trawlers, it also maintained continuous wide-area surveillance of the entire Chedabucto Bay (radius in excess of 20 km). Commercial vessels, as well as other trial participants including DND's warship Toronto, the Canadian Coast Guard's Edward Cornwallis, and Cessna aircraft carrying other sensors were tracked simultaneously and continuously, providing complete, wide-area situational awareness.

Improving homeland security requires collaboration between governments and industry to quickly evaluate and bring affordable, high-performance technologies to address modern threats. DRDC demonstrated vision in organizing the MARSIE trial which explored the coordination between government technologies and private sector capabilities. The significant contribution of commercial surveillance technologies to the success of this sensor trial serves to highlight the critical role which the private sector must play in advancing Canada's maritime security. Many of the sensors used in MARSIE originate from corporate R&D including Accipiter® which was developed entirely in Canada by Sicom's scientists and engineers.

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Sicom has been working with some of the member agencies of the Canada/US Integrated Border Enforcement Teams (IBETs) to evaluate Accipiter® in border enforcement applications. MARSIE offered an ideal opportunity for the US National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center for the NorthEast (NLECTC-NE), the New York State Police (NYSP) and other IBET partners to collaborate with DRDC and Sicom to further evaluate Accipiter® under these unique maritime scenarios. All agencies participating in this international exercise will benefit from the derived analysis of the sensor data as well as gain understanding of any critical technology gaps that may exist and what future R&D efforts may evolve to address them. Sicom acknowledges the collaboration provided by the NYSP (Jim Monti, Investigator NYSP (Troop B)) and NLECTC-NE personnel Christopher McAleavey (Program Manager), Jerry Cook (Technology Applications Engineer), and Edwin Freeborn (Senior GIS Remote Sensing Engineer) in the planning and execution of the Trial.

Sicom Systems Ltd. - Sicom Systems Ltd. is a Canadian developer of advanced radar technology located in Fonthill, Ontario. Sicom's Accipiter® radars achieve high performance and provide advanced automated surveillance features at low cost by combining economical commercial off-the-shelf marine radar hardware with Sicom's sophisticated Accipiter® processor/tracker.

Sicom also provides advanced algorithmic research, design and development services to selected clients applied towards the development of advanced radar, communication and biomedical systems. Sicom specialises in developing the advanced algorithms and real-time implementations that provide the *intelligence* in these modern systems.

Accipiter® Radar - Sicom's **Accipiter® Radar** products are software configurable radar systems created by integrating inexpensive, commercial radar transceivers and computers with the sophisticated Accipiter® Radar Processor. Accipiter® is easily the highest-performance, most affordable radar system in its class.

Accipiter®'s network-based architecture permits the deployment of a network of radars fused into a combined situational awareness display located at a remote monitoring centre. Automated alerts minimize demands on monitoring centre operators. The primary market for Accipiter® is in Homeland Security applications such as border patrol, coastal surveillance, law enforcement and critical infrastructure protection but Accipiter® has also won acclaim for its performance as an avian radar in bird-aircraft strike hazard reduction programs and for wildlife management programs dealing with avian issues.

Sicom's Accipiter® development program has been in progress for over a decade and its advanced MHT/IMM tracking algorithms have been used and integrated by DRDC in other DRDC programs.

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NLECTC-NE - The US National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center Northeast Region is a program of the National Institute of Justice. It serves as a technical "honest broker" offering technical support, research findings, and technological expertise to criminal justice agencies at the State and local and federal level. Under an agreement & contract with US Department of Homeland Security through the Joint International Public Security Technical Program (PSTP), the NLECTC-NE staff has been conducting operational testing & evaluation of advanced emerging technologies to support the technology requirements of US / Canadian Integrated Border Enforcement Teams. NLECTC-NE was introduced to Accipiter® technology through its IBET relationship with DRDC. With the assistance of the NYSP (IBET Operation Member), NLECTC-NE has integrated Sicom's Accipiter® Radar into the NYSP mobile command Center for conducting technology evaluations across numerous IBET regions. The Accipiter® Radar technology has been evaluated by NLECTC-NE using the NYSP Mobile Command Center platform under a variety of law enforcement and homeland security operational settings.

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