## Request for Test Coded Beacons for Use in MEOSAR D&E Test T-5

The USA NOAA Sarsat program is requesting beacon manufacturers to supply test coded beacons for use in the MEOSAR Demonstration and Evaluation tests for operational (“real world”) beacons. The test is aimed at demonstrating and gauging the performance of the MEOSAR system to detect and locate operational beacons.

The US Sarsat program is hoping to receive 20 operational for use at 10 different locations with the following characteristics:

* Encoded location enabled
* Test Standard Location Protocol (bits 37-40 = 1110)
* 121.5 Homer disabled
* Channelized to transmit on any operational channel \*
* Field deployable, i.e., PLB, EPIRB or Automatic/Portable (AP) ELT

At each location beacon activations will need to span a period of approximately 48 hours or more. As the required battery capacity is only 24 hours, multiple beacons may be activated in succession but,, if a beacon manufacturer can also provide a replacement battery or batteries, and instructions on battery replacement by a competent but inexperienced person, this would be ideal.

The testing will begin no sooner than spring 2013. NOAA is requesting receipt of these beacons in February 2013 so they may be shipped to the test locations. After the 3 sets of tests are concluded, which may take a year or more, NOAA will ship all beacons back to the manufacturers.

Thank you for all of your continued support and efforts in developing the future of the SARSAT program.

\*The previous request for beacons listed the frequency channel 406.04 MHz as a requirement. This was to mitigate the possibility of collisions with operational beacons. During discussion at the Council meeting in October 2012, and with various beacon manufacturers, it became clear that there would not be a significant amount of Type Approved beacons available in that channel. NOAA now requests beacons in any operational channel for this test.