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## U.S. COAST GUARD APPROVES IRIDIUM-BASED CLS THORIUM™ TERMINAL FOR LONG-RANGE IDENTIFICATION AND TRACKING



**The Thorium™ :  
CLS' Iridium-based  
LRIT terminal**

RAMONVILLE, France and BETHESDA, Md., U.S.A. – October 16, 2009 – Collecte Localisation Satellites (CLS) and Iridium Communications Inc. (NASDAQ: IRDM) announce that the U.S. Coast Guard has type-approved the CLS Thorium™ terminal for Long-Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT). The type approval clears the way for CLS America, a subsidiary of CLS, to equip ships sailing under the U.S. flag to comply with the international LRIT carriage requirements.

Pole Star, the U.S. LRIT Application Service Provider (ASP), conducted the conformance tests on behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard to ensure the Thorium product meets the international performance standards for LRIT.

“Iridium’s global service coverage includes all ocean areas, including the north and south Polar Regions,” said Greg Ewert, executive vice president, global distribution channels, Iridium. “As the only LRIT Communications Service Provider (CSP) capable of satisfying the LRIT requirements for ships operating above 70 degrees north or below 70 degrees south latitude, Iridium-based terminals, such as the Thorium, provide reliable, critical information to and from ships at sea in compliance with LRIT regulations. Iridium provides global, low-latency, highly reliable short-burst data links, which are ideal for LRIT reporting.”

The European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) recently awarded CLS a contract for the provision and operation of the European Union (EU) LRIT Data Centre, as well as the associated

ASP and CSP functions. The EMSA LRIT Data Centre – the largest in the world – will not only enable the 27 EU Maritime Administrations, and those of Iceland and Norway, to track more than 10,000 vessels flying their flags, but will also request position reports of non-EU flag vessels entering EU coastal waters.

The CLS Thorium unit has already been type approved in Europe, and many other administrations such as Chile, Panama and Vanuatu have this unit installed on their flag ships. All major ASPs have certified the unit as LRIT compliant when delivering a Conformance Test Report according to the International Maritime Organization rules.

“As one of the major ASPs, we know that ships fitted with Iridium-based terminals can be more reliably tracked,” said Gaëtan Fabritius, LRIT sales manager of CLS. “Now, many ships in the U.S. market will have the chance to have such a terminal onboard. Iridium is one of these partners, offering us easy-to-use, cost-effective and reliable CSP services, as well as compliant LRIT devices. We are very pleased to have developed this partnership with Iridium for LRIT purposes.”

The Iridium-based Thorium LRIT unit is promoted by CLS through its worldwide distribution network. For more information, visit [www.lrit.fr](http://www.lrit.fr).

### **About Iridium Communications Inc.**

Iridium is the only provider of mobile satellite communications services offering 100% global coverage. Iridium’s constellation operates in a low-earth orbit and its satellite network provides communication services to regions of the world not served by wireless or wireline networks. Iridium offers voice and data communications services to the U.S. and foreign governments, businesses, non-governmental organizations and consumers via its constellation of 66 in-orbit satellites, seven in-orbit spares and related ground infrastructure. Iridium’s commercial end-user base includes the emergency services, maritime, government, utilities, oil and gas, mining, leisure, forestry, construction and transportation markets. Iridium’s products and related applications are installed in unmanned aerial vehicles, helicopters, commercial aircrafts, marine vessels, and ground vehicles. Iridium has launched a major development program for its next generation constellation, Iridium NEXT, which will support new and existing Iridium product and service offerings. Iridium is headquartered in Bethesda, MD.

## **About CLS**

Collecte Localisation Satellites (CLS) is a subsidiary of the French Space Agency (CNES) and Ifremer (French research institute for the exploration of the sea). CLS is a key player in sustainable management of marine resources, environmental monitoring and maritime security. CLS has demonstrated an unrivalled 20 years expertise in vessel monitoring systems and the delivery of data centres to governments around the world and proposes a complete range of LRIT products and services, from implementing LRIT data centres to providing satellite data (ASP), testing and furnishing LRIT-compliant terminals. Within this framework, CLS has been contracted by the EMSA to provide the EU LRIT Data Centre and associated ASP services on behalf of all EU member states plus Iceland and Norway. This will be the world's largest LRIT Data Centre monitoring approximately 10,000 registered vessels. For more information, visit [www.cls.fr](http://www.cls.fr) and [www.lrit.fr](http://www.lrit.fr).

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