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SeaSonde® Selected for Monitoring 2008 Olympic Games Sailing Event Race Area

China's State Oceanic Administration is installing what will arguably be the most sophisticated environmental monitoring network for any sailing competition race area. This network will feature a SeaSonde® system providing continuous, real-time maps of ocean two-dimensional surface current flow patterns within the Qingdao area, venue for the 2008 Olympic sailing competition. The SeaSonde system will be installed late 2006 with data collected in advance of race events as well as during the regatta itself. Data from the SeaSonde and other satellite and in-situ environmental sensors will be assimilated into a numerical circulation model, whose outputs will be provided to the Chinese Olympic Committee and Marine Forecasting Observatory of Shandong Province.

Qingdao, a beautiful coastal city in China's eastern Shandong province, has a history of typically light winds during the summer months. In the event of light wind conditions, utilizing the ocean current information for race boat strategy (namely setting lay lines) may be of increased importance. The SeaSonde is the best technology for quantifying fine-scale current flow patterns and this will be its first application in racing.

The SeaSonde is manufactured by CODAR Ocean Sensors of Mountain View, California. Hardware and software design that have been continually improved upon over the last 30 years allows the SeaSonde robust field performance and user-friendly software with high quality data output. The SeaSonde is both convenient and affordable for a wide variety of users and applications. Staff at CODAR Ocean Sensors are the world's experts in HF radar theory and system design and have produced approximately 80% of all HF radars ever built worldwide for ocean monitoring.

For further information contact Laura Pederson of CODAR Ocean Sensors by phone at +1 (408) 773-8240, or send e-mail to laura@codar.com. Visit the company web site at <http://www.codar.com>.

Laurel Technologies Company Ltd. is the local China representative for CODAR Ocean Sensors. The appropriate point of contact is Professor Huiyong Lin, phone +86 (010) 5879-0099, or send e-mail to laurel@laureltech.com.cn.



1914 Plymouth Street
Mountain View, CA 94043 USA
Phone: +1 (408) 773-8240
Fax: +1 (408) 773-0514
E-mail: info@codaros.com
www.codaros.com