

Spain's Andalusian fire authority fast-tracks deployment of Globalstar SPOT Gen3 satellite messengers to safeguard firefighters amid Covid-19 crisis

Dublin, Ireland – 06 August, 2020 – [Globalstar Europe Satellite Services Ltd](#), a wholly owned subsidiary of Globalstar Inc. (NYSE American: GSAT), and the leader in satellite messaging and emergency notification technologies, announces that 550 [SPOT Gen3™ satellite-enabled safety devices](#) have been deployed to safeguard and track firefighters across the vast expanse of Andalusia in southern Spain.

For this rapidly-delivered project, SPOT Gen3 satellite messengers are the backbone of an advanced fire management technology platform from wildfire solutions specialist [Technosylva](#) to monitor and protect the region's fire response teams and vehicles.

This was a particularly urgent requirement by [INFOCA](#), the administrative authority for forest and wildfire management, a department of the [Junta de Andalucía](#), the local government for this region. INFOCA needed a fast deployment of a far-reaching, reliable tracking system to monitor and protect firefighters as Spain deals with the many complications and risks created by the global Covid-19 pandemic.

INFOCA is one of the largest fire authorities in Europe with 5,000 response personnel. Andalusia is Spain's most populous region with eight million inhabitants and several million tourists throughout the year. Fire is a major problem in Andalusia, its climate always subject to the extreme influences of the Sahara Desert. With its rugged and mountainous terrain, human exposure to fire risk is very high.

Along with the need to provide 24/7 operational safety to firefighters in this potentially volatile environment, Spain has been dramatically affected by this year's Covid-19 crisis. Since the outbreak began, INFOCA has been collaborating with other emergency services to deploy measures intended to limit the virus' spread, and it has engaged in extensive prevention activities to protect the public. For instance, INFOCA's fire equipment has been deployed to help with disinfection operations.

Joaquin Ramirez Cisneros, Principal Consultant at Technosylva, explains: "INFOCA was very clear - this requirement was very urgent because of Covid-19."

Technosylva provides sophisticated fire behaviour analysis and management software. Fire authority operations teams can precisely track firefighters' locations, via a user-friendly display of GPS positions in near real-time via the Technosylva [fiResponse™](#) platform, a wildfire decision support system.

Thanks to the pre-integration and smooth inter-operation between FiResponse and SPOT Gen3, the deployment for INFOCA was able to be completed in record time, in a matter of weeks. INFOCA already had confidence in the capabilities of Technosylva and SPOT because in July 2015, [Junta de Castilla La Mancha fire authority selected Technosylva and SPOT Gen3](#) devices to safeguard its fire response teams in the neighbouring region.

"To keep crews safe, it is critical to accurately and reliably monitor where the firefighters are at all times, in relation to the engines, pumps and other equipment," says Ramirez Cisneros. If a firefighter needs help urgently, with the single press of SPOT Gen3's SOS button, INFOCA operations co-ordinators are alerted, the user's GPS coordinates are instantly transmitted, and rescue or support procedures can be initiated.

“When there is a fire, it is also important to know how far away firefighters and resources are from the heart of it: The ability to track personnel, and the resources they use, all in real-time, is the Holy Grail in fire management,” he added.

Gary King, SPOT Regional Sales Manager at Globalstar, commented: “We’ve seen a dramatic uptake of SPOT devices among first responders, and we are proud that our technology is helping to safeguard and support Andalusia’s firefighters.”

The new agreement with Junta de Andalusia builds on Technosylva’s earlier adoption by other firefighting organisations around the world. Technosylva has extensive and growing reach in the US, having numerous state-level fire authorities as customers, as well as supporting fire agencies in Spain, Canada and Latin America.

SPOT Gen3 is a rugged, pocket-sized low-priced personal GPS messenger that helps users stay connected via satellite even where there is poor or no GSM signal. SPOT devices have been used in over 7,000 rescues worldwide since Globalstar launched the technology in 2007.

About Technosylva Inc.

With offices in San Diego, USA and Leon, Spain, Technosylva provides GIS-based solutions for wildland fire protection planning, analysis and modelling, and operational response. Formed in 1997, the company has a rich legacy of providing forest and wildfire management consulting services worldwide. Over the past 20 years, Technosylva has collaborated with wildfire management agencies across the globe to develop the industry’s leading incident, dispatching and resource tracking software available. As such, their flagship ESRI™ based products, [fiResponse™](#) and [Wildfire Analyst™](#), have been developed through years of applied use by emergency response professionals. Proven and robust, Technosylva’s software provides users with key information needed to make critical decisions quickly and efficiently. Timeliness, integration and information sharing are the foundation of Technosylva’s products. Software products are complemented with professional consulting services for wildfire analysis and modelling, fuels mapping, wildfire risk assessment, and encapsulating models into custom web and mobile applications development. Technosylva prides itself in providing world-class wildland fire subject matter expertise coupled with leading edge technology. To do this the company maintains close relationships with the world’s leading wildfire scientists, and regularly collaborates with partners to support industry research and servicing clients’ needs. <http://technosylva.com/>

About SPOT

SPOT LLC, a subsidiary of Globalstar, Inc., provides affordable satellite communication and tracking devices for recreational and business use. SPOT messaging devices use both the GPS satellite network and the Globalstar Satellite Network to transmit and receive text messages and GPS coordinates. Since 2007, SPOT has provided peace of mind by allowing customers to remain in contact with family, friends and colleagues, completely independent of mobile coverage and has helped initiate more than 7,000 rescues worldwide. For more information, visit [FindMeSPOT.eu](#).

Note that all SPOT products described in this press release are the products of SPOT LLC, which is not affiliated in any manner with Spot Image of Toulouse, France or Spot Image Corporation of Chantilly, Virginia. SPOT Connect is a trademark of Spot LLC. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

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