



## Survitec Group wins Manufacturing Excellence award for Most Improved Company

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London, UK, 24 November 2011; Survitec Group Limited (Survitec), world-wide manufacturer and distributor of survival technology for the marine, defence and aerospace industries, is pleased to announce that it's Belfast based business RFD Beaufort, has been awarded the Most Improved Company at the Manufacturing Excellence awards 2011.

The Manufacturing Excellence Awards is the most successful and long established manufacturing awards programme in the UK, and includes 21 short listed companies competing for 11 awards designed to honour the very best in UK's manufacturing. The awards were held at The Dorchester hotel in London last night.

The Most Improved Company is a new award for 2011. Entrants were asked to outline improvements in their business over the last one to three years, highlighting any significant areas of change in that time.

In 2009, RFD Beaufort began a radical modernisation programme to significantly improve its management processes. Since then, the business has introduced profound structural, cultural and behavioural changes, which have been embraced by staff throughout the business. The changes have resulted in significant growth in both the marine and aerospace sectors with export sales increasing by almost 35%. Customer on-time delivery and employee engagement ratings have also been critical success factors in the programme.

The Judging Panel noted that they were "Particularly impressed that despite these major changes, staff throughout the business from the managers' offices to the shop floor, were uniformly positive, supportive and enthusiastic about the reform which has left RFD Beaufort perfectly placed to weather the economic storm".

Moya Johnston, MD of RFD Beaufort Limited commented: "This is an excellent achievement to be recognised as one of Britain's top manufacturing companies. I am very proud of our record which is a testament to the commitment of all our staff. Our goal remains to take a lead in the marine and aerospace survival technology industries and we are working hard to develop the business further in the current market environment. I am extremely proud to be taking this back to Dunmurry with me, I know all our people deserve the accolade and they'll be absolutely delighted."

**ENDS**

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## **Notes to Editors**

### ***About Survitec Group Ltd***

Based in London and Dunmurry, Northern Ireland, bringing together best-in-class brands with reputations for quality, design and innovation, the Survitec Group holds market-leading positions worldwide in marine, defence and aerospace survival technology. With an extensive history spanning over 160 years and a portfolio of some of the most reputable brands in the safety and survival industry, Survitec is committed to product innovation, technological advancement and quality assurance. Key products within the Survitec Group include marine, defence and aviation liferafts, world leading submarine escape technology, lifejackets for commercial airlines and the offshore industry as well as pilot flight equipment, including anti-g clothing used for the Eurofighter and JSF programmes. The Group also pioneered marine evacuation technology and today the unique Marin Ark system is used on many major cruise ships across the globe.

With seven manufacturing sites and a global service and distribution network, Survitec partners with some of the best names within the industries it operates to offer the fastest, highest quality service as possible. Each manufacturing facility has a dedicated Research & Development team who work tirelessly to continuously improve each product, ensuring Survitec is always ahead of the ever changing demands of each of its market sectors. Through rapid organic and acquisitive growth, Survitec has consistently grown revenue and profitability securing over £160 million of global sales in 2010.

For more information please visit [www.survitecgroup.com](http://www.survitecgroup.com)