



Survitec's RFD Beaufort business awarded prestigious Queen's Award for Enterprise

London, UK, 23rd April 2012; Survitec Group's RFD Beaufort facility in Dunmurry, has been awarded the **Queen's Award for Enterprise**, for its RFD MarinArk Marine Evacuation System (MES).

Entered in the Innovation category, and specifically for 'Continuous Innovation and Development', the RFD MarinArk attracted the attention of the award panel not only for its innovative design, responsiveness to regulations and the need for improved passenger safety, but also for its global commercial success.

Moya Johnston, Managing Director of the Dunmurry facility where the product is designed and manufactured, commented "This is a fantastic achievement and international recognition for our business in Northern Ireland. We've worked extremely hard during what is a challenging economic period, to continue to innovate, deliver excellent products and remain competitive for a demanding customer base. Simply knowing that our product improves passenger and crew safety on board ships and ultimately, is there to save lives, is an enormous source of pride for all of us here in Dunmurry."

Survitec's history in marine survival equipment dates to Reginald Foster Dagnall in 1920, with the design of simple but critical flotation bags and rings for the Royal Navy's Aircraft. Marine Evacuation Systems as we know them today, began production at the factory in 1979, and in line with changes in regulation and advances in vessel design and increasing passenger capacities, the company has continued to invest in the continuous development of the product. It has also worked closely with Invest Northern Ireland, securing research and development grants to help bring the product to market with great commercial success.

Announced every year on the Queen's Birthday, only a small number of the hundreds of thousands of businesses who enter the awards are selected to receive a Queens Award for Enterprise. It is an enormous boost to the Survitec Group to receive this award for outstanding achievement, particular recognising the achievements of its flagship product, MarinArk, which is designed and manufactured in Dunmurry.

Dunmurry was also recently recognised by the Institute of Mechanical Engineering with the MX Award for Most Improved Business 2011. This reflected achievements made by the business as a result of its radical modernisation programme to improve its management processes and which saw export sales increase 35% with on-time delivery and employee engagement ratings soar.

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Notes to Editors

About the RFD MarinArk

RFD MarinArk Mk II, which has been continuously developed, employing twin vertical chutes at muster stations to transfer passengers into square, inflatable and reversible, life-rafts. The chutes and rafts are fully enclosed, sheltering passengers from the elements. The chutes, which, for increased safety, permit passengers to pass others, incorporate shock cords for controlling descents. The rafts incorporate unique features concerned with buoyancy and storage. The equipment, capable of safely evacuating over 800 people in less than 30 minutes, is installed on cruise ships, passenger and commercial vessels worldwide and has had global commercial success.

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 MarinArk system is used on many major cruise ships across the globe.

With eight 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

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