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Baron Services Completes Critical Design Review for NOAA's National Weather Service NEXRAD Dual-Polarization Upgrade

Significant Milestone Makes Way for Prototype Assembly and Testing

January 14, 2009 – HUNTSVILLE, AL – Baron Services, through its partnership with L-3 Communications, announced today that it has successfully completed the Critical Design Review (CDR) phase of the U.S. National Weather Service's (NWS) NEXRAD upgrade to dual polarization. Further, in preparation for its Integration Test Readiness Review (ITRR), which will take place in April 2009, the L-3/Baron team is now assembling the first of the NWS' 171 impending NEXRAD system upgrades.

The L-3/Baron team's detailed drawings and schematics covering the hardware, software, safety, security, and environmental impact of the upgrade – the results of their 12-month design phase – were presented to more than 100 government officials in October 2008. The materials demonstrated the team's achievement of the NWS' key performance parameters and its compliance with the NWS' CDR requirements.

"This was a critical step," said Bob Baron, president and CEO of Baron Services. "Completing the Critical Design Review phase demonstrates that the team's engineering is solid and has the National Weather Service's complete confidence. Our team was awarded the NEXRAD contract based on our technological solution and overall value. We are following through on our commitment, providing our customer a break-through technological solution and an exceptional value. Our goal is to help improve the way meteorologists around the world forecast critical weather events in the future."

Under the NEXRAD contract, the L-3/Baron team is providing design, development, and production of a comprehensive, system-wide upgrade of the 171 NWS, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Department of Defense (DoD) NEXRAD radars to dual polarization. This technology vastly improves rainfall estimation, hail detection, and rain/snow discrimination, and enhances the accuracy of the entire NEXRAD radar network.

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Unlike conventional systems, that transmit only a horizontal scan, dual-polarization radars emit both vertical and horizontal polarized beams. This dual scan of the same volume doubles the amount of data meteorologist can see when compared with conventional radars. Through their use of hydrometeor classification for identifying locations and types of precipitation, dual-polarization radars deliver larger amounts of more accurate information concerning the size, shape, orientation, and state of hydrological data. This information provides forecasting professionals the ability to identify precipitation events of interest for the United States – and the world – more precisely than ever before.

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About L-3 Communications

Headquartered in New York City, **L-3 Communications** employs more than 64,000 people worldwide and is a prime system contractor in aircraft modernization and maintenance, C3ISR (Command, Control, Communications, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance) systems, and government services. L-3 is also a leading provider of high technology products, systems, and subsystems. The company reported 2007 sales of $14 billion.

About Baron Services

Baron Services owns numerous weather technology patents. The company delivers advanced forecast modeling, mobile weather analysis, cutting-edge radar systems, and localized weather displays. Operating primarily from Huntsville, Alabama, with offices in Oklahoma, North Carolina and Florida, Baron Services includes five specialized divisions that continue to advance the weather industry by providing systems engineered to save both lives and property. The company has, to date, installed all broadcast dual-polarization radars in the world.