

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**KIWIS HELP AMERICANS SMASH WORLD SPEED RECORD**

*Dunedin Technology Company helps American pilots to beat World Helicopter Speed Record by nearly six days.*

**Dunedin, 19 August 2008** – New Zealand technology company TracPlus Global Limited, providers of a ground-breaking GPS tracking service, were pivotal in helping American pilots Scott Kasproicz and Steve Sheik smash the existing World Helicopter Speed Record by nearly six days.

In an attempt dubbed the Grand Adventure, Kasproicz and Sheik departed New York over a week ago in their unmodified Agusta Westland Grand helicopter, in a route that would see them circumnavigate the world, with 78 fuel stops in 18 countries and flying more than 23,000 miles.

At 2.14am New Zealand time, the two adventurers landed at La Guardia airport in New York to set a new world record of 11 days, 7 hours and 3 minutes (unofficial time), beating the previous record by 5 days, 23 hours and 10 minutes.

The previous record was set in 1996 when Ron Bower and co-pilot John Williams flew a Bell 430 helicopter around the world in 17 days, 6 hours, 14 minutes and 25 seconds.

TracPlus Global had been initially chosen by Kasproicz to provide real time tracking for the record attempt, but the company increased their support to provide a high tech command centre at their USA office in Atlanta, Georgia.

TracPlus Global CEO Chris Hinch congratulated Kasproicz and Sheik on their successful record attempt.

“This is an amazing achievement, and shows what can be achieved with the right aircraft, the right flight crew, and the right technology.”

The Dunedin based company tracked the twin-engine executive helicopter around the world in real time, with highly accurate position reports transmitted off the aircraft every minute and delivered to the command centre via the Iridium network in less than 10 seconds.

“From there, we were able to share that information with Scott and Steve’s families and friends via the Grand Adventure website, as well as thousands of supporters around the world.”

But the company’s contribution did not stop there.

“We also gave Scott and Steve a brand new global messaging application that allowed them to communicate in real time with the team at the GACC (Grand Adventure Command Centre). Along with the tracking information, it allowed the GACC to coordinate very fast turn around times at refueling stops, with the quickest being less than five minutes!” said Hinch.

“This has been an outstanding result, better than best estimates, and it is testament

to the outstanding efforts and skills of the men in the cockpit and the team on the ground. We are immensely proud to have played an important role in this effort and to have helped Scott and Steve make aviation history” said Hinch.

**ENDS**

**For more information, please contact**

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**About TracPlus Global Limited**

TracPlus Global Ltd’s core business is the seamless, reliable and secure delivery of real time global tracking, sensor monitoring and data analysis services to private, business, military, and government organizations worldwide, using guaranteed mission critical hosting infrastructure.

The TracPlus product and service occupies a unique position in the global telemetry market. In a global market where new tracking hardware is announced daily, TracPlus is the only tracking service designed to work with any standard tracking terminal, across any satellite or cellular network, and deliver data to a wide variety of client applications including third party command and control systems.

TracPlus also sets a new standard in operator and agency interoperability, allowing users to easily and securely share data with each other, enabling emergency response and rescue coordination agencies to visualise time critical tracking data in the systems of their choice, regardless of the source of that data.

TracPlus Global won the International Technium Challenge in 2008, and was chosen as the Gen-I Startup Exporter of the Year in August. The company is also a finalist in the 2008 TUANZ Innovation awards.

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