



CHRISTCHURCH'S BLUEWATER SYSTEMS SECURES RNZ NAVY CONTRACT

Media release, 18 March 2009, Bluewater Systems Ltd, Christchurch, New Zealand: **Christchurch based ARM solutions developer, Bluewater Systems continues to build on its reputation as a highly regarded contractor to the defence sector by delivering on a significant communications retrofit contract with the Royal New Zealand Navy.**

Bluewater CEO Sarosh Dubash says the project was a coup for the company and reinforces Bluewater's campaign to obtain defence industry contracts in New Zealand and Australia.

The success of this RNZ Navy project for Bluewater follows hard on the heels of the re-signing of their contract with the Australian DSTO (Defence, Science and Technology Organisation) to provide hardware and software development. This is Bluewater's third year of contract service with the DSTO and they are now the sole supplier of components of these highly specialised sub-systems for the organisation.

The Navy project involved retrofitting the communications system within the **Combat System Tactical Trainer**, used by the Navy at their Devonport base to train the command team and operational personnel working on the two New Zealand based ANZAC frigates.

The simulator unit was one of three originally built by Stanilite Pacific, who won the contract for the onboard and onshore communications systems installed in the eight ANZAC frigates.

According to Navy technical manager, David Adams, who oversaw the project, Stanilite Pacific was bought out by ADI in 1996, and the Trainer systems were no longer supported.

Installing a replacement communications system in the Trainer was essential to ensure its ongoing usefulness in creating realistic, real time training for the command teams who work onboard the New Zealand frigates.

"The simulator is now more than 10 years old, and because it was custom built at the time, there were very limited spare parts for repairs. The communication systems have now reached the end of their useful life, so we required a supplier who could reverse engineer the hardware and software to deliver the same systems

that are currently being simulated, and be able to support it going forward.

"The war games scenarios our instructors run are very realistic and can be quite dramatic, with personnel having to deal with incoming missiles, communicating with the helicopter pilot, communicating with the bridge and other parts of the frigate and generally rehearse the skills required to run the frigate under combat conditions," Adams says.

Instructors in the control room sit at six instructor stations and act as the rest of the ship, using a touch screen system to respond in different roles.

The replacement system included 15 broadcast communication stations and two paging stations.

Bluewater Systems submitted a tender for the project, based on using their in-house ARM expertise and the ready availability of ARM based SoMs (System on Modules), making it possible to quickly and cost effectively build a custom circuit board that could provide all the applications required.

"Bluewater impressed with their tender, which was one of three or four on our shortlist. At the end of the day, they won because of a sharp price, their professionalism and expertise, and their ability to deliver quickly to our specifications," Adams commented.

He also noted that Bluewater's experience in conducting a similar process for Telecom New Zealand, replacing aging magnetic tape storage systems with a custom built digital data storage unit (done through NEC NZ), was one of the deciding factors in the selection of Bluewater for this project.

The contract was awarded in May 2008, a prototype unit was successfully tested in August onsite at Devonport, and the equipment was delivered in full in early November. Installation was completed in December 2008 and the system is working exactly as expected.

Bluewater's Dubash comments that the project was a challenging one for the company, but proceeded very smoothly.

"We were able to hit all our milestones and deliver on schedule, despite having to work from very limited support information about the protocols used by the existing system. However, we did have excellent support and partnership from the RNZN team."

Ends

About Bluewater Systems (www.bluewatersys.com)

Bluewater Systems, a fast-growing company formed in 1996, is an ARM Technology Solution Centre, specialising in embedded electronic and FPGA design. Based in Christchurch, New Zealand, Bluewater Systems services a number of international customers, including ARM, NEC, Australian DSTO, Royal NZ Navy.

The company's vision is to empower all companies to realise the benefits of ARM technology through superior design services, development tools, support and ARM-based system modules. Products and services offered by Bluewater Systems include:

- Extensive range of ARM, Keil and RealView development tools
- Snapper Single Board Computer Modules, which enable fast and cost-effective design turnaround
- Consulting services, from FPGA design to full product development

For more information, and photography please contact:

Karen Brown
Communicate IT Ltd
karen@communicateit.co.nz
Phone: + 64 3 381 6655
Mob: + 64 27 339 0051

Amanda Gardner
Marketing Coordinator
Bluewater Systems Ltd
amanda@bluewatersys.com
Phone: +64 3 377-9127

David Adams
Technical Manager, Maritime Warfare Training Centre
Royal New Zealand Navy
Phone: + 64 9 445 5713
email: david.adams@nzdf.mil.nz

