



27 February 2009

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **For Immediate Release**

## **POLAR CLOTHING CONTRACT GOES TO NEW ZEALAND COMPANY**

Antarctica New Zealand has tendered its specialist Antarctic Clothing contract to New Zealand outdoor clothing design and manufacturing company Earth Sea Sky in a unique partnership of New Zealand technology and history.

Earth Sea Sky were able to utilise this opportunity for extensive research and development of their extreme cold weather outdoor clothing range. This process has already paid off for Earth Sea Sky. Within 6 weeks of the new clothing arriving at Scott Base US-based Petroleum Helicopters International signed a contract for Earth Sea Sky to outfit their team of helicopter pilots and crew. The Royal New Zealand Air Force has also placed an order for extreme cold weather clothing for its Hercules C-130 and Orion P-3 flight crews engaged in Southern Ocean surveillance and Antarctic intercontinental flights.

Iain Miller, Manager of Antarctic Support for Antarctica New Zealand, said the organisation was pleased to work with a New Zealand-based company such as Earth Sea Sky. Reports from Scott Base on the first season of the new clothing range have been positive, Miller said. "We spent a lot of time listening to the people who use the clothing down on the Ice and we have incorporated their feedback into the design. The new gear is working well in a range of conditions. It has less bulk and provides the ability to layer down in warm conditions or when doing physical work."

The previous and now redundant Antarctic clothing range will be put to good use. The polar fleece garments are to be donated to the Himalayan Trust who will distribute them to the Sherpa people of Nepal. June, Lady Hillary, said, "The donation of the clothing by Antarctica New Zealand to the Himalayan Trust is greatly appreciated and reinforces the strong links that New Zealand has with Antarctica and the people of Nepal." The redundant extreme cold-weather clothing will also be donated to the Canadian Inuit Arctic communities via the Canadian Embassy. The US Air Force has agreed to transport the clothing to the Canadian Arctic on one of their returning Hercules LC-130 ski planes free of charge.

David Ellis, Managing Director of Earth Sea Sky, has a history of involvement with Antarctica. His father, Murray Ellis, was a member of the New Zealand party of the 1957-58 Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition led by Sir Edmund Hillary. Murray Ellis helped build the original Scott Base and was one of the team to be the first to arrive overland at the South Pole via motorised transport.

**T:** +64 3 358 0200

**F:** +64 3 358 0211

International Antarctic Centre  
Administration Building  
38 Orchard Road  
Private Bag 4745  
Christchurch  
New Zealand

[www.antarcticanz.govt.nz](http://www.antarcticanz.govt.nz)



“Earth Sea Sky prides itself on the performance and quality of its clothing. Our family has been involved in supplying polar clothing and equipment to Antarctica New Zealand for the past 50 years. Having the opportunity to continue the association is a great honour for us,” Ellis said.

***Ends***

**For further information please contact:**

Lou Sanson

Chief Executive

Antarctica New Zealand

Phone: (03) 358-0204 or 021 997 946

**Or**

David Ellis

Managing Director

Earth Sea Sky

Phone: (03) 339 0126 or 021 99 1934

**T:** +64 3 358 0200

**F:** +64 3 358 0211

International Antarctic Centre  
Administration Building  
38 Orchard Road  
Private Bag 4745  
Christchurch  
New Zealand  
[www.antarcticanz.govt.nz](http://www.antarcticanz.govt.nz)