

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HMCS HAIDA VOYAGE TO RESTING BERTH IN HAMILTON, ON WILL BE TRACKED USING NEWEST HOMELAND SECURITY RADAR TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPED BY SICOM SYSTEMS LTD. OF FONTHILL, ON.

Fonthill, ON August 25, 2003 - When the HMCS Haida makes its final journey from Port Weller Drydocks to its resting berth in Hamilton Harbour on Thursday August 28, 2003, engineers from Sicom Systems Ltd. (Sicom) of Fonthill, ON will be tracking for Parks Canada utilizing the newest radar tracking technology. Designed by Sicom for Homeland Security surveillance applications, this technology provides security officials with enhanced awareness of potential threats to critical infrastructure and international border security.

Sicom's new technology brings sophisticated radar tracking methods to low cost systems that are affordable for the wide-area, long-term surveillance needed to increase the security of international waterways over the long term. "Critical threats of interest to military and governments are that of a small terrorist boat approaching a large vessel or infrastructure installation," noted Sicom's President, Dr. Tim Nohara. Further he stated, "This voyage of the Haida presents an excellent opportunity to demonstrate the detection of a security threat scenario since many small boats will be escorting the venerable warship across Lake Ontario."

Unlike battlefield scenarios, homeland terrorist attacks occur infrequently at unpredictable locations and to be effective, security must be widely deployed for long periods of time. Expensive, military systems are not economically feasible for such applications. Sicom has developed sophisticated, military-quality, signal processing combined with inexpensive commercial off-the-shelf marine radars to create an affordable, high-performance radar surveillance solution. Critical infrastructure that can be threatened from the water include power plants (conventional and nuclear), water supplies, agriculture, industrial plants, bridges, dams and international border patrol security applications.

To compliment Sicom's strengths in military, communication and biomedical systems, they have teamed with ASI Group Ltd. (ASI) of St. Catharines who brings extensive expertise in inspection and survey technology of underwater infrastructure to the final stages of development of this radar surveillance and tracking system. The radar station is installed at the facilities of ASI in St. Catharines, ON overlooking Lake Ontario.

Sicom Systems Ltd. is an engineering company that provides research, design and development services applied towards the development of advanced radar, communication and biomedical systems. Sicom is one of just a few North American companies that provide advanced algorithmic research and development services to industry and governments to create the advanced algorithms that provide the *intelligence* in modern systems.

ASI was founded in 1987 as Aquatic Sciences Inc. by technical professionals committed to providing engineering, marine and ecological services to industry and utilities worldwide. The Company is widely recognized for innovative solutions in underwater inspection applications and effective management of water and wastewater. ASI draws on human resources with demonstrated experience in engineering, technology

development, advanced marine operations, and ecological planning. ASI employs a full time staff of eighty engineers, technologists and commercial divers and is headquartered in St. Catharines, ON.

Parks Canada designated the HMCS Haida as national historic site of Canada in 1984. She is the last of the Tribal Class destroyers and is one of two Royal Canadian Navy warships that survived the Second World War. She now joins the 145 national historic sites across Canada, currently administered by Parks Canada, who is responsible of ensuring their commemorative integrity. Repairs and restorative work have recently been completed at Port Weller Dry Docks, and the Wednesday August 28 voyage destination is the final berth for HMCS Haida at Pier 9 at Hamilton Harbour, in front of HMCS Star. Parks Canada is currently working on the development of the Canada Discovery Centre on Marine Conservation to be located at Pier 8 in Hamilton Harbour, to present Canada's natural and historic marine heritage.

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For further information

Mr. Carl Krasnor, Business & Corporate Development Manager
email: ckrasnor@sicomsystems.com

Sicom Systems Ltd.
67 Canboro Road, 2nd Floor
Fonthill, ON L0S 1E0
Tel: (905) 892-1875
Fax: (905) 892-2249

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