

Tracker News



Microwave Telemetry, Inc.

Small Solutions to Big Mysteries

Dear Customers and Friends,

When we started this company in 1991, it was inconceivable to us that we would one day have a 5g PTT. I once said that it becomes ever harder to reduce the size and weight of devices as we get closer to the Holy Grail of a unit that weighs nothing and lasts forever! With much anticipation and excitement, we took a giant leap forward in January when Jim Fraser and Jonathan Cohen of Virginia Tech deployed our first prototype 5g PTTs on Red Knots. We thank them for their collaboration and for giving us a glimpse of the future.

This issue of Tracker News brings you an overview of three other outstanding projects, each using our smallest PTTs. The Spanish Montagu's Harriers carry our tiny 9.5g solar PTTs from Spain to western Africa. We thank Rubén Limiñana, Alvaro Soutullo, Vicente Urios and Miguel Gallardo for taking us on this 3000 km journey.

Next, we travel on the wings of the Saker Falcons, carrying our 22g solar Argos/GPS PTTs, from Ukraine and Hungary, south through Europe and across the Mediterranean to Sicily and Libya respectively. Thank you Mátyás Prommer and János Bagyura; you showed us that accurate GPS locations can be obtained despite the high level of radio interference in southern Europe.

Although these journeys are amazing in their own right, the epic migration of the Bar-tailed Godwit, told by Lee Tibbits, Bob Gill, Nils Warnock and Phil Battley, is truly unique. It has taken many years to perfect the tiny 26g implantable PTTs used in this project. We would like to thank Bob Gill and Dan Mulcahy of the Alaska Science Center for their patience; we believe the wait was worthwhile!

Last but not least, we are grateful to Bernd and Christiane Meyburg, and Adrian Aebischer for updates on their longest running PTTs. We also share Mimi Kessler's enthusiasm as she updates us on her project with school children in Mongolia.

As this year comes to an end, allow me to thank you, our customers, for the amazing results that your projects yield. We share your enthusiasm and excitement when our PTTs become small solutions to big mysteries!

We wish you happiness, health and joy in 2008.
Sincerely,
Paul and the staff at MTI



Photo by Brian Gerber

Red Knot with 5g PTT
Page 2

Tracking Harriers
Page 3

Movement of Saker Falcons
Page 4

Godwit Circles Pacific
Page 5

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Above:
Red knot with 5g PTT.