



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON



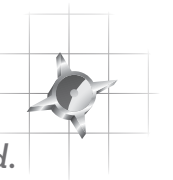
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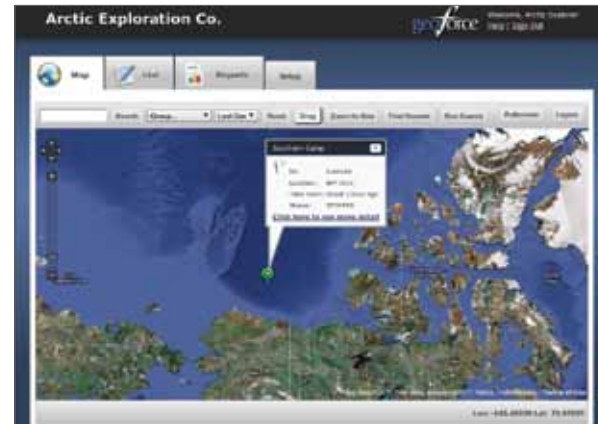


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Geoforce Non-Powered Equipment Tracking Delivers Even in the Remote Arctic Ocean

Although most of Geoforce’s customers use its non-powered equipment tracking solutions to track oilfield equipment, such as frac tanks, baskets and containers, the University of Washington is a unique case that proved just how flexible and durable Geoforce’s software, hardware and global network can be.

University researchers were setting up a sea ice camp about 200 nautical miles north of Prudhoe Bay, Alaska. They needed a way to safely and easily locate the campsite every morning, despite possible 10-kilometer ice drifts and heavy snow that could cover or move the site overnight, making it difficult to detect while flying in. The ideal solution would be rugged enough to withstand extreme subzero temperatures that averaged -20°F and dipped as low as -50°F. Additionally, the equipment would have to receive satellite transmissions, even in an inordinately remote location.



See it all, know it all – even in extreme conditions



Geoforce knew that the University of Washington project required both durable equipment and a reliable way for researchers to track the camp remotely. With two of its customers that operate oil and gas fields on the North Slope of Alaska using the Geoforce system for over two years with positive results, Geoforce had the industry experience and knowledge of arctic working conditions. Two XS-TA GPS tracking devices were recommended, along with a two-week license for the Geoforce web-based asset tracking and management software.

The XS-TA device is a battery-powered, explosion-proof GPS tracking tag that operates on the Globalstar Low Earth Orbit (L.E.O.) satellite network. Because they are small, portable and self-powered, the devices could be placed at the top of the camp’s insulated plywood huts in order to detect and send the site location via satellite network four times per day at predetermined intervals.

Geoforce’s web-based software would allow researchers to log on at any given time to verify the camp’s location, even while flying to the site.

No more needle in a haystack

The XS-TA tracking devices proved to be an ideal solution for this project, withstanding the arctic temperatures and providing the reliable readings needed to ensure safe location of the campsite. Researchers received clear transmissions from the devices, even at a latitude of 73°N.

Because they did not need to search for the location each morning, researchers were able to arrive at the campsite early, leaving more daylight hours available to work. This not only allowed the establishment of the ice camp to be completed much earlier than expected, but resulted in more overall research findings.



“[The Geoforce] units worked perfectly for our arctic ice camp operations 200 nautical miles north of Prudhoe Bay. The tags handled the extreme -50°F conditions up here with no problems. Using Geoforce made our initial daytrips to camp much easier since we did not have to search for the location every morning.”

Keith Van Thiel
APPLIED PHYSICS LABORATORY, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

To the Point

The Client:
Researchers from the University of Washington’s Applied Physics Laboratory, who were setting up an ice camp 200 nautical miles north of Prudhoe Bay, Alaska

The Challenge:
The client needed to fly out to the site each morning to build the ice camp, and overnight ice drifts and heavy snow could cause delays in finding the site each day; extreme temperatures and remote location made finding a technically feasible solution a challenge

The Solution:
Two rugged XS-TA tracking units, operating on the Globalstar L.E.O. satellite network, and a two-week Geoforce software license and service agreement

The Results:
Researchers were able to easily locate the campsite each morning, cutting down on search time and allowing more time for building and research, resulting in improved time and cost efficiencies

