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Smart Data for the Long Haul

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

APRIZE PIPELINE MONITORING SYSTEM UNDERGOES SUCCESSFUL FIELD TRIALS

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, August 3rd, 2004 – Aprize Satellite Inc., a U.S. company based in Fairfax, Virginia that provides asset tracking and data monitoring services worldwide via its low-Earth orbit satellite system, announced today the successful completion of field trials conducted with Saudi Aramco that demonstrated the benefits of the Aprize Cathodic Protection (CP) remote monitoring system.

Saudi Aramco was interested in finding an affordable and effective Pipeline Monitoring System to reduce their operating expenses and provide management with timely and reliable pipeline status information. Saudi Aramco tried GSM cellular communications and another low-Earth orbit (LEO) satellite system to transmit data from remote pipeline stations to the central office. The GSM system was costly to install and did not perform reliably due to poor communications circuits, frequent outages, and limited cellular coverage in remote areas. Although the LEO system that was tested performed satisfactorily, the equipment cost and monthly services fees were deemed too costly for widespread deployment. With this experience, Aprize was given a contract to demonstrate the ability of its satellite data network to meet both the technical and affordability requirements.

The Aprize engineering team traveled to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia where they successfully installed Cathodic Protection monitoring units on the Saudi Aramco Oil Pipeline to monitor corrosion. Cathodic Protection (CP) prevents corrosion of metallic underground fuel storage tanks and pipelines. Corrosion is an electrochemical process and CP is an electrical method of diminishing corrosion on structures that are exposed to electrolytes. Lack of manpower and high cost makes it difficult to perform the periodic testing that is necessary to ensure that CP systems are operating properly. Many CP system malfunctions therefore remain undetected until the structure that was supposed to be protected corrodes and leaks. It is often too late for corrective action at this point and the pipe or tank must be replaced prematurely.

During the Aprize Field Trials, data from the units were picked up by satellite four times a day and automatically transferred to a web server that the Aprize team installed at the King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology in Riyadh. The web server logged the data that was

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automatically downloaded from the satellites. In addition to the pipeline monitoring units, mobile units with GPS receivers and antennas were installed in various vehicles and worked perfectly in and around Riyadh and Dhahran. A satellite command and control ground station was modified to streamline operations, to capture and display telemetry, to capture and store satellite data files and to display results. A web server and database was created to capture the satellite data files and display them in a recognizable format with tables, graphs and map displays. The server was connected to an internet site where data on the server is now accessible to anyone that may be designated to access the information, and anywhere through a simple internet connection.

The Aprize Pipeline Monitoring System performed as anticipated, eliminating the need for personnel to travel to field sites to take measurements, thus dramatically increasing the number of sites that can be evaluated during a given time period, and freeing personnel for other duties. Use of the Aprize technology was also shown to significantly reduce life cycle costs because of increased structure service life.

In the words of Mark Kanawati, Vice President of Engineering and Operations for Aprize and the team leader for the Saudi Aramco demonstration, “Aprize successfully demonstrated how the receipt of timely and reliable data reports using automated remote monitoring applications can improve operations and productivity while at the same time reduce costly and time-consuming on-site visits. In this demonstration with Saudi Aramco, the AprizeStar Cathodic Protection Pipeline Monitoring System confirmed that remote monitoring of pipelines for both internal and external degradation will lead to improved maintenance of pipeline integrity, significant savings by eliminating costly on-site visits by pipeline technicians, and increased structure service life.”

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Aprize Monitors Saudi Aramco Pipelines

About Aprize (www.aprizesat.com)

Aprize Satellite Inc., a privately held company headquartered in Fairfax, Virginia, was established to provide a reliable low-cost system for monitoring the status of remote and mobile assets worldwide. The company is deploying a next generation low-Earth orbit satellite communications system using an innovative system architecture that will significantly reduce user equipment costs and monthly services fees.

About Saudi Aramco

Saudi Aramco is the fully integrated, global petroleum enterprise of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The company has operations in exploration, production, refining, marketing and international shipping. Building on a legacy that dates back nearly 70 years, Saudi Aramco today leads the world in crude oil production and exports, is the top exporter of natural gas liquids and is a major natural gas producer.

For more information, please e-mail news@aprizesat.com or call 703-352-9728