



Global Leader in Sensory Systems

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CROSSBOW TECHNOLOGY'S INERTIAL SYSTEM MEASURES THE FORCES INSIDE AN AVALANCHE

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Crossbow Technology, Inc., a leading developer of Inertial Systems for commercial, general aviation and military applications is always inspired, and sometimes amazed, by the unique and innovative ways that its products are used.

In a recent scientific investigation conducted on the mountains of Utah, researchers used a Crossbow solid-state Inertial Measurement Unit to capture the rate and acceleration data required to characterize the dynamic forces inside an avalanche. This data will help in developing a model to better understand the injuries that might be sustained by a human victim, and to help ski patrols find a victim more quickly.

Avalanches are a very serious threat to off-terrain skiers, snowmobilers and climbers. Although ski resort safety officers analyze the snow profile daily, and carry out controlled explosions to loosen the ice and snow when necessary, more than one hundred people die in avalanches each year. Snow flow velocities can often exceed 250 kph, creating forces that are sufficient to crush entire buildings.

The highlights of this investigation were recently featured in the TV show "Disaster Lab: Buried Alive" presented by National Geographic. Crossbow's Inertial Measurement Unit (IMU) was installed inside "Ironman"; an anthropomorphic dummy used to represent a human caught up inside an avalanche.

About Crossbow Technology

Founded in 1995, Crossbow has pioneered the use of Micro-Electro-Mechanical System (MEMS) Inertial System technology in a wide variety of airborne, land and marine applications. Crossbow was the first company to introduce FAA-certified MEMS-based Attitude and Heading Reference Systems (AHRS) to General Aviation (FAA Capstone program), and continues to be at the forefront of AHRS and Inertial Systems technology and product development.

With corporate headquarters in San Jose, CA, and Asian offices in Tokyo and Osaka, Japan, Crossbow is represented by distributors in 24 countries worldwide. Crossbow is ISO 9001/2000 certified, holds several FAA TSO approvals, and operates an FAA MIDO approved facility.

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