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COASTAL ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS, INC.

Coastal to Provide Wind Monitoring System at *Perhaps* Earth's Most Inhospitable Site

Alaska, Seward Peninsula, *on* the Bering Strait:

(We say "*perhaps"* Earth's most inhospitable site because as soon as we leave that word out – 3 of our customers send us e-mails with truly worse locations! This one – at least – is in the top five.)

Imagine a place where you can get 12 – 18 inches of ice build-up in a mere 12 hours. Where the tram tower that takes you to the top of a hill is encased in 5 feet of ice – and where it's very likely you will have to chip and hack your way past each 55 foot high tower location because ice is blocking the trams way.

So, why would you want to know the winds *here*?

"We don't like to go up if the winds are above 35 - 40 Knots," answered our un-named source, who is in charge of servicing the station. "And without wind data you can end up going up and running into 80 Knot winds at -20 º C – THAT makes for a very rough trip."

Why not wait for a day with no wind?

"It's pretty hard to plan on those couple of days a year." In fact, our source remembers being stuck at the top once, for 17 days (yes, DAYS) waiting for the winds to drop low enough for him to come down. (This was his vacation, mind you – which was over by the time he got down!)

The wind monitoring system is designed around the Taylor wind monitor, which Coastal Environmental Systems has used before, in places like Thule, Greenland – where winds can exceed 200 Knots. Specifically for this location however, the wind sensor is being even more ruggedized.
"In addition to the two 1500 watt heaters for the sensors, we are adding another 1500 watt heater in the cross arm," explains Phil Taylor, creator of the Taylor wind sensor. "We are also putting every wire inside a steel pipe and building a ¼ inch stainless steel plate enclosure for the heater controllers and electronics."

The Taylor sensor will connect to a ZENO® 3200, Coastal's 32 bit microcontroller data acquisition system, which will then send the data to 3 large Vacuum Fluorescent displays. No PC is necessary and the ZENO® will easily withstand the temperature range, as well as the fluctuations.

The Taylor wind sensor is also being used in Coastal's Air Force fixed-base weather station, FMQ-19, in environments with either very high winds, or with ice loading problems similar to this one.

For Immediate Release