



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ricochet™ Technical Rescue Gear Selected for Puerto Rico's First Responders

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, MARCH 31, 2009 — Ricochet™ Manufacturing, Inc., is pleased to announce that the Puerto Rico Fire Department (PRFD) selected Ricochet's Technical Rescue 602A Gear for first responders throughout the island. Selected in a grant-funded, competitive-bid process, Ricochet™ delivered more than 450 customized sets of high-performance, comfortable gear within 45 days of receiving the contract.

Because of the warm island climate, breathability was essential to PRFD. At the same time, the first responders needed to be protected against hazardous liquids commonly encountered at accident scenes. Ricochet's Technical Rescue 602A ensemble is one of the most breathable sets of certified gear in today's market, with a protective liner that can be detached if there is no threat of exposure to bloodborne pathogens. Certified to both NFPA 1999, 2008 Edition and NFPA 1951, 2007 Edition, this flame-resistant gear is ideal for extrication, automobile, urban search and rescue, and technical rescue because it offers up to twice the breathability of firefighter turnout gear.

The protective liner in the 602A is made of CROSSTECH® S/R Fabric, a breathable barrier that offers liquid penetration resistance to blood, body fluids, and common fire-ground chemicals. In addition, this fabric is flame resistant for flash fire exposures and highly abrasion resistant for physically demanding environments. While providing this level of protection, the unique membrane used in this fabric also allows perspiration to escape, keeping the responder cooler and more comfortable.

According to Peter Askey, President of Ricochet™ Manufacturing, Ricochet™ products are designed for better mobility, fit, and comfort. Since its inception, the company has approached the design of technical rescue garments as an extension of EMS gear, focusing on the unique requirements of first responders. For example, although a removable protective barrier has only been part of the NFPA 1951 standard since 2007, Ricochet's Technical Rescue 602A garment has been equipped with this removable barrier since 2004. The 602A also includes additional comfort features such

as underarm gussets and a bi-swing back to give the responder more flexibility in tight spaces.

Askey concludes, “Because some units of PRFD had previously purchased Ricochet™ ensembles, they understood the significance of our unique design approach, and they knew that they wanted a lightweight garment that provided the breathable protection of CROSSTECH® fabric. Because of our great relationship with W. L. Gore & Associates, Gore was able to deliver the fabric in time for us to manufacture and custom-letter the suits for nine different local departments on the island within 45 days of the contract. We value this relationship with Gore and our mutual commitment to delivering a high-quality product to first responders.”

RICOCHET™ MANUFACTURING: For more than 20 years, Ricochet™ Manufacturing, Inc., has specialized in designing the ultimate in protective EMS and technical rescue clothing. Drawing on its extensive experience in developing sophisticated high-tech military gear, Ricochet™ manufactures lightweight, non-restrictive protective clothing using the highest quality materials for maximum comfort and safety. Ricochet™ Manufacturing is located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and produces all of its products in the United States. For more information about Ricochet’s complete line of EMS and technical rescue clothing, call 888.462.1999 or visit www.ricochet-gear.com.

W. L. GORE & ASSOCIATES: With more than \$2 billion in sales and 8,000 employees worldwide, W. L. Gore & Associates specializes in fluoropolymer innovations that improve the quality of life. Gore has applied its world-renowned expertise to thousands of high-performance solutions in pharmaceutical, consumer, industrial, electronic, medical, and surgical markets. Specifically in the protective fabrics arena, Gore has been a pioneer in developing high-performance barrier products for use in firefighting, EMS, technical rescue, law enforcement, military, and domestic preparedness applications. The company operates more than 45 facilities worldwide with headquarters in Newark, Delaware, USA. For more information about CROSSTECH® Fabric, call 800.431.GORE or 410.392.3600, or visit www.crosstech.com.

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