

## **The Schonstedt Humanitarian Demining Initiative**

Schonstedt Instrument Company is a small manufacturing company located in the eastern panhandle of West Virginia, about 70 miles from Washington, DC. We make instruments that locate underground objects.

Our 'pipe and cable' locators find and trace underground utilities. Our 'magnetic locators' find ferrous metals such as boundary markers used by surveyors. They are also a proven success in locating unexploded ordnance (UXO). In looking for ways to grow this latter market, we discovered an unmet need for humanitarian demining throughout the world and thought we might be able to help.

We determined that the sale of a pipe and cable locator could financially support the donation of a magnetic locator and, in January 2007, launched the Schonstedt Humanitarian Demining Initiative.

We then needed a partner who could identify and prioritize world populations for which UXO clearance would not be possible without a contribution of this sort. That led us to the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), which to date has assisted in getting over 500 of the \$1041 tools into the hands of UN-supported demining teams in 28 countries, among them Laos, Somalia, Kenya, Tajikistan, Vietnam, Nepal, Egypt, Mauritania, Ethiopia, Croatia, Chad, Azerbaijan, Gaza, Cambodia, Algeria, Lebanon, Libya, the Central African Republic, Uganda, Iraq, and the Darfur region of Sudan.

We also partnered with the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA) for their support and assistance in coordinating the flow of demining tools to underserved areas of the world.

Donors are recognized with 'Thank You' letters from Schonstedt, UNMAS, PM/WRA and the in-country recipient of the equipment whenever possible; for example, the Tajikistan Mine Action Centre or the International Mine Action Training Centre, Nairobi, Kenya.

More recently, we've been approached by groups and individuals who have no need for a pipe and cable locator, but who wish to contribute to the effort nonetheless. They are asking the question, "Can we simply buy one and donate it?". As an example, the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) is responsible for 3 of the 10 units now at work in Tajikistan and for all 24 in Vietnam. To address the question, we have developed the following 'matching grant' program:

- Purchase for donation any number of Schonstedt GA-72Cd magnetic locators at list price, currently \$1041, and Schonstedt will *match your donation unit for unit*.
- We will ship the units directly to underserved countries according to UN priorities.
- We will make donations in the name of the donor, either group or individual, and provide suitable recognition.

In 2010, we de-coupled the program from the sale of pipe and cable locators, and currently base it solely on purchases for direct donation, which Schonstedt continues to match. Arrangements are in place to enable tax deductions for the purchase price of the equipment. Please call for details.

This initiative represents an open-ended commitment by Schonstedt to humanitarian demining where it is most needed in the world – *and where it would not otherwise be possible*.

Further information is available at [www.schonstedt.com](http://www.schonstedt.com) and from Wendy Hart, Program Director, at [whart@schonstedt.com](mailto:whart@schonstedt.com) or (304) 724-4754.