



8th May 2007

# GKN MISSION EVEREST



[www.gknmissioneverest.com](http://www.gknmissioneverest.com)

33,000 ft

26,040 ft

## Countdown to Everest

21,000 ft

**The countdown has started to the world's first flight over Everest by powered paraglider.**

The team, sponsored by GKN, led by Bear Grylls and including our own Wolfram Messner flew out to their base camp in eastern Nepal last weekend. There they will prepare their equipment, familiarise themselves with their new flying environment and wait for an essential lull in the notorious winds which rage over Everest.

18,500 ft

Flying the specially developed paramotors will be Bear and fellow pilot Giles (Gilo) Cardozo, who has designed and built the two flying machines which represent the next generation of paramotor technology.

17,300 ft

Also heading out to the Mission Everest base camp are 23 GKN trekkers from the US, Brazil, UK, Italy, Germany and Australia who will trek through the foothills of the Himalayas to the Mission Everest base camp where, depending on the weather window, they will witness the record breaking attempt.

15,000 ft

Meanwhile the GKN Mission Everest challenge to raise an extra \$1 million for good causes – including \$500,000 for the children of Africa – is rapidly building up momentum with more than \$90,000 raised so far.

13,050 ft

11,600 ft



Bear Grylls (top left) and Giles Cardozo making final equipment pre-flight checks

**We are on  
target and  
we can do it!**



# Making 2007 a very special year:

**“This is going to be a very special year for GKN”, said Martyn Vaughan, Chairman of the Mission Everest Steering Committee and one of the “trekkers” heading out to the Himalayas.**

“Nothing like this has ever happened in the Group before. The way GKN people are responding to the Mission Everest challenge to reach out and bring hope into other people’s lives is truly inspiring.

“All of us on the Steering Committee never fail to be moved by the energy and compassion being mobilized across the Group. Through Mission Everest we are making this a company of which all of us can be incredibly proud.”

Here is just a very small sample of activity underway across GKN:

**In Japan**, Torque Technology and Driveshaft employees have initiated a weekly clean-up of the areas around their plants.

**In China**, the new Shanghai Group Office has decided to support a charity which seeks to improve the educational opportunities of Chinese children in hundreds of schools across the region.

**In Germany** (see photograph) two activities in Bonn raised more than \$2,000 for local charities.

**In Italy**, OffHighway is organizing a charity football match involving employees, customers and suppliers which aims to raise more than \$30,000 from a single event.

**In Slovenia**, Driveshafts employees have given money and time to support an initiative to vaccinate school girls against the threat of cervical cancer.

**In the USA**, 80 Sinter employees at Manitowic have each volunteered to spend 20 hours helping to build a house for the homeless by the end of June.

## GKN’s Mission Everest promise:

For every extra \$1 GKN people raise – either for their local communities or as direct aid to Africa – GKN will match it.

For every extra effort GKN people make to help their own communities that effort will be valued – and GKN will match that value.

All of GKN’s matching is going to Africa.

Thanks to the efforts of many teams and many individuals around the world we have been able to give more than \$90,000 to Global Angels, our chosen charity which directs 100% of what we give to help some of the poorest and most desperate children in Africa.

Our target for the year is \$500,000 – enough to feed more than 12,000 needy African children for one year!



# Trekking to Mission Everest basecamp

A team of 23 people have answered the call to join the GKN-sponsored team at their Himalayan base camp to witness the historic flight.

Each Division, including the Corporate Centre, held a competition for employees to win one of sixteen places on what is likely to be the experience of a lifetime.

Seven others have decided to pay their own way to journey to the Mission Everest base camp over the next few days.

The GKN trek team flew into Kathmandu in Nepal on May 6 th for acclimatisation and then on the 8th they fly by Yeti Airlines to Lukla in the Solu Khumbu which is the main portal to the Everest region. There they will meet their porters and support team and then trek to Phakding where they will camp overnight.

On May 9th they will trek to Namche and camp overnight, and spend another day of acclimatisation. On May 11th they will trek to Thyangboche where they will overnight.

With an early start on the 12th, the group will trek to Pheriche, home of the Mission Everest base camp – at an altitude of 4240 metres – where they will be briefed on the Mission Everest project by Bear and the team.

They will camp for two nights at Pheriche and spend the day of the 13th observing the parajet team.

Each day of the trek Mohammed Akram, from GKN's London office, will send a report by satellite phone which will be posted on OurSpace, the Group wide intranet.



## Good Luck!

**Mohammed Akram**, Corporate Centre, UK\*  
**Kyle Wagner**, ILDP, Corporate Centre, Germany\*  
**Declan Rogers**, Driveshafts, UK\*  
**Dania Maister**, Driveshafts, Brazil\*  
**Thomas Pullen**, Driveshafts, Germany\*  
**Barry Skalrud**, Aerospace, Australia\*  
**Ryan Duke**, Aerospace, UK\*  
**Kirk Jones**, OffHighway, US\*  
**Ruth Volegger**, OffHighway, Italy\*  
**Tim Greenaway**, Diversified Business Group, UK\*  
**Gary Wilkinson**, Diversified Business Group, US\* (Gary's wife Carol is also accompanying him)  
**Jon Keiper**, Sinter, US\*  
**Thomas Jeworrek**, Sinter, Germany\*  
**Jim Gulnac**, Sinter, US\*  
**Heinold Goller**, Sinter, Italy  
**Thomas Oberparleiter**, Sinter, Italy  
**Gunther Unterrainer**, Sinter Italy  
**Hubert Oberleiter**, Sinter Italy  
**Judith Felton**, Corporate Centre, UK  
**Martyn Vaughan**, OffHighway, UK  
**Sir Peter Williams**, Main Board, UK (Sir Peter's son Anthony is also accompanying him and from the Mission Everest base camp they also plan to ascend to Everest Base Camp itself)

\* Divisional winners



# GKN donates further \$63,000 to Global Angels

GKN has made a “fantastic start” to its Mission Everest fundraising project.

Molly Bedingfield, head of charity Global Angels, came into GKN’s new London HQ in Pall Mall on April 30th to receive a second payment from GKN – this time for \$63,000 – from Chief Executive Kevin Smith.

This follows an initial payment of \$28,000 only one month ago.

Martyn Vaughan, Chairman of the GKN Mission Everest Steering Committee said: “There has been a wonderful response, right across the Group, to our Mission Everest appeal. People are working hard for their local communities and working hard to help the children of Africa.

“This has been a fantastic start and should make us all proud.”

GKN’s objective through its Mission Everest appeal is to raise \$500,000 for a small number of Africa charities which focus on the needs of children. The first \$28,000 will enable a school to be completed for Masia children in Kenya. The latest contribution has been earmarked for a charity in Uganda which helps children brutalised by warfare to find a new life.



On behalf of Global Angels Molly Bedingfield receives a cheque for \$63,000 from Kevin Smith





# Wolfram Messner

Wolfram Messner is GKN's man in the team and is in charge of keeping us all updated throughout the mission via the GKN Mission Everest website.

Wolfram not only has a surname in common with Reinhold Messner, the world's most famous climber – he also shares a passion for mountains. He was born in Bruneck, a small town in Italy's South Tyrolean Alps and grew up an outdoor pursuits fanatic. Each winter, he spent every spare minute snowboarding on the slopes around Bruneck and across the Alps.

Hiking in the Dolomites led to more challenging rock climbing and mountaineering in the Alps, Andes and East-Pamir in China – he now has high altitude experience up to 23,000 feet. On weekends throughout the year, you will find him out in the open somewhere.

He joined GKN in 1997 as a finance specialist and has worked in a number of Driveline plants in Italy. He is currently Director Controlling of GKN Driveline.



Wolfram Messner at home among mountain peaks

To find out more about  
Mission Everest go to  
[www.gknmissionevert.com](http://www.gknmissionevert.com)

