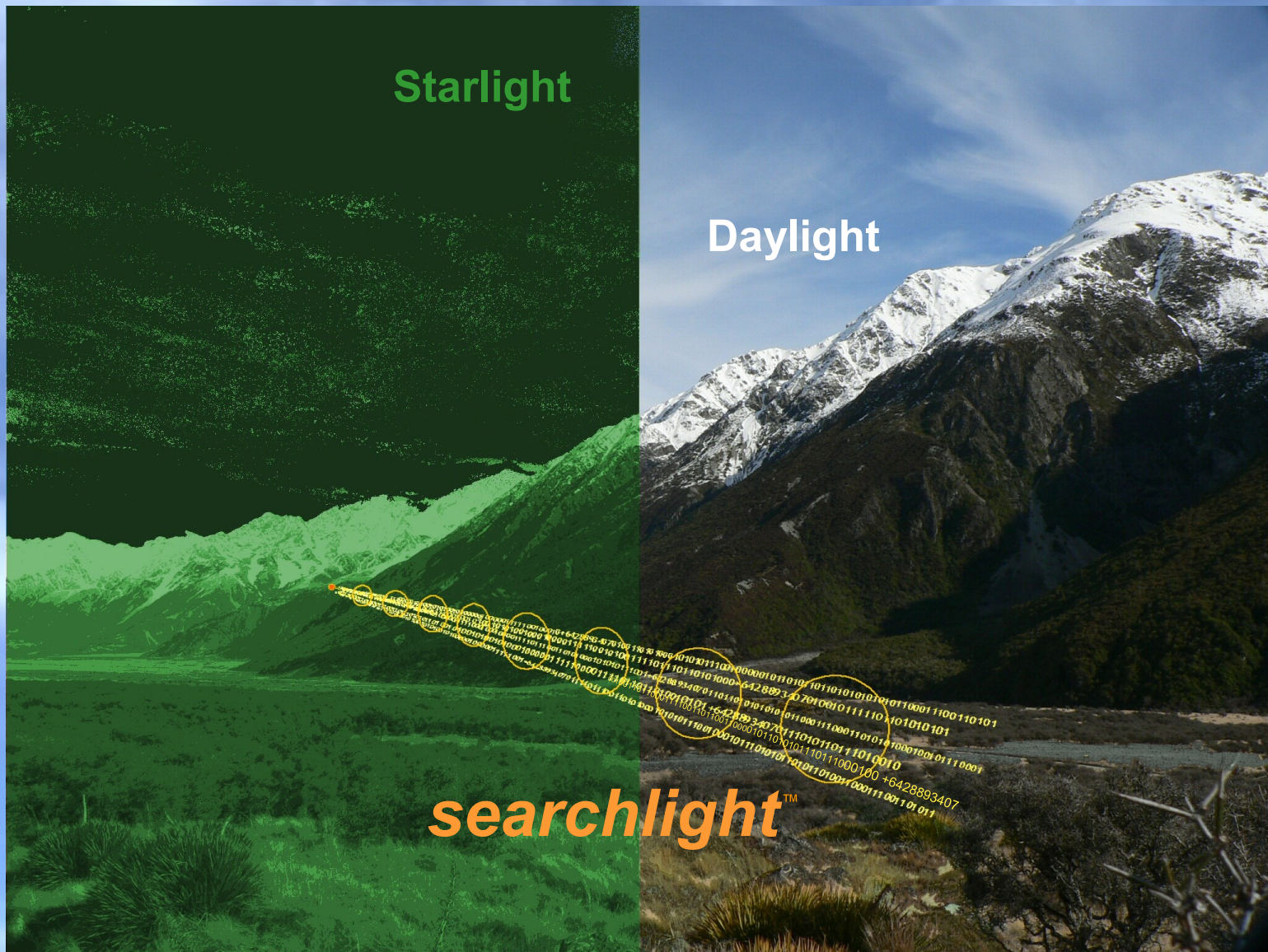




New Vision for Search and Rescue



Search and Rescue technology has improved greatly over the years.
But in difficult terrain and weather, it still often comes down to teams
out searching on the ground...

SearchLight® aims to change things...



The SearchLight® concept, bringing Search and Rescue into the Cell Phone era

"A 17-year-old girl used light from her cellphone to guide rescuers when she got lost tramping in the Wainuiomata hills recently..."

Source : www.landsar.org.nz Sep 08

**That's a heck of an
expensive torch!!!**



Imagine being able to find someone who may not realise they have a powerful locator in their pocket? Someone who didn't think they were in any danger of needing rescue and so didn't carry a traditional locator device, beacon or radio.

2662 people were assisted by SAR services in New Zealand in 2006/7.
There were 695 Beacon Incidents, of which 65 were real incidents.
By contrast, consider that at least 71% of NZ households have Cell Phones and 89% of 15 year olds own one!

Source : NZSAR Annual Report 2006/07 & NZ Census

The SearchLight® concept is built around the technical capabilities of modern cellular telephones and the massive social engineering which has already ensured that a majority of people have their cell phone on them at any time. Times when they might need help; in everyday situations – vehicle accidents on remote roads, slips on a short walk, unexpected changes in river or tidal conditions to name a few scenarios, or following a natural disaster such as an earthquake.

Desirable Features of A Locator?

Portability

Ease of Use / Operate without User Input

Uniquely Identifies itself – ID linked to user

Allows Communication

Cell Phones now provide an ever increasing range of secondary functions such as cameras, mp3 players, games, texting, email clients, web browsing, and personal data assistants and even in built GPS capability and so *people take them... everywhere!*

The Searchlight Concept Patchy Cellular Network coverage need not be a bar to locating someone through their Cell Phone. By exploiting existing cellular telephone and other technologies, a real time, state of the art tracking/location system can be placed in the hands of SAR personnel on the ground.

The primary focus is on areas with compromised cellular coverage (which includes hundreds of kilometres of Highways). Casualty location following natural disasters such as earthquakes is also a key development area.

Our aim is to utilise the technology that people use in the real world, making it work harder for the benefit of search and rescue services.



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