

## Press Release

# **Inventor overcomes life-threatening illness to attend PATCAD**

While New Zealand's national bird the kiwi is completely flightless, there's one inventor and entrepreneur from this small South Pacific nation who certainly knows how to become airborne.

Bob Harris from the town of Temuka in New Zealand's South Island has developed an amazing personalised skydiving glider which has attracted not only interest from daredevil pilots the world over, but also from the US military.

They've been so intrigued by his Skyboard glider that he's been invited by the US Army Research, Development and Engineering Command to attend its Precision Airdrop Technology Conference and Demonstration (PATCSD'07).

What's even more remarkable is that at the same time as the US military was studying Bob Harris's Skyboard, Bob himself was battling severe illness and wasn't even sure he'd survive the year to see his incredible invention in action in the States.

But tenacity and dedication have been hallmarks of this engineer's entire life so Bob kept battling on, not just with Skyboard's development but also against the aggressive cancer that was attacking his body.

Bob's faith in both his invention and his ability to fight his illness have both paid off. Not only is Skyboard taking to the skies above the Yuma Proving Ground between October 22-26 this year but he's also been given the medical thumbs-up after overcoming his cancer.

"For a while there I wasn't sure I was going to make it but here we are with Skyboard in the States – I can hardly believe it – it's like a dream come true," Bob Harris says.

Skyboard is a one-person glider that can make either wheels-down or parachute-assisted landings and can be launched from fixed-wing aircraft or helicopters. It can reach speeds of up to 300kph.