



Tested under very harsh conditions

Philips HeartStart FR2+ and HeartStart MRx defibrillators recommended by Aquatic Concept

Who/where

Aquatic Concept, who provide safety and medical support services for nautical and terrestrial sport events in France and abroad. Joeffrey and Benjamin Serfati, company founders.

Challenge

Equipping rescue and medical teams to respond to accidents and emergencies during sporting events, even in hostile environments.

Solution

HeartStart FR2+ AED for use by the rescuers (lay responders).

HeartStart MRx defibrillator/monitor for use by the doctors.

Important here was the ease of transferring the patient data from one device to the other, for the best possible follow-up.

Every adventure comes at a price: safety. The need for safety justifies the role of Aquatic Concept, a company created in 2003 by the Serfati brothers, to provide medical support for sporting events. Both brothers are passionate about action, widely experienced in dealing with the harshest conditions, and ready to handle any risk or unexpected event. The rescue teams and doctors of Aquatic Concept have gained invaluable experience over the last two years working with the Philips HeartStart FR2+ and HeartStart MRx defibrillators. And everything they learnt was under their normal working conditions, namely, extreme ones!



PHILIPS

The sea as a backdrop

Joeffrey and Benjamin Serfati have been immersed in nautical events since childhood. For many years both competed in such events, and therefore they know the risks involved. This gave them the idea to turn their experience into a career, providing professional services to sporting events. Up to that point little attention had been paid to safety concerns.

Their company, Aquatic Concept, provides safety and medical support services for many nautical events in France and abroad. For example, in motor boat racing, for the Rubson Raid Turquoise, and in yachting, for the Seychelles Sailing Cup, as well as for the Edhec race and many events organized under the aegis of the French Sailing Federation (FFV - Fédération Française de Voile). Joeffrey Serfati and his team provide medical support services for any event above a certain number of participants, with a particular need for safety.

Prevention and support

Aquatic Concept's expertise is not limited to nautical events and the company has broadened its experience to include other sports. It recently provided medical support for the Hummer Raid, in Tunisia, and the SFR Rando Raid, in Morocco. Although the environment may differ, the goal remains the same: to ensure the event is safe by providing the organizers with specialists. The role of Aquatic Concept is to prevent as well as respond. Before the event, Aquatic Concept's specialists work with the organizers on site to meticulously identify the itinerary and make a detailed inventory of the possible risks to the participants.

They assess the type and quantities of personnel and equipment needed to make sure the event is safe. The logistical department of Aquatic Concept then provides these. Emergency teams have two types of personnel: rescuers and doctors.

These are fully involved throughout the event to ensure they can intervene immediately, if needed. Depending on the event, Aquatic Concept provides between 6 and 80 people, all experienced specialists in their respective fields.

“An ideal device for our First Aid teams, who often respond to emergency and dangerous situations at sea, in the mountains or in the desert: almost always in a hostile environment”.



The Serfati brothers, (Joeffrey (left) and Benjamin) saw the need for expert rescue and medical support for adventure sports

Defibrillators for emergency situations

Naturally, their Philips defibrillators are an essential part of the equipment used by the rescuers and doctors of Aquatic Concept. The rescuers use the Philips HeartStart FR2+ automated external defibrillator (AED), as it is easy to use, light, and does not take up much room. "It is," emphasizes Joeffrey Serfati, "an ideal device for our First Aid teams, who often respond to emergency and dangerous situations at sea, in the mountains or in the desert: almost always in a hostile environment". The Aquatic Concept doctors will then, if necessary, take over and use the Philips HeartStart MRx defibrillator/monitor, which offers them complete control to make the most of their skills. Joeffrey Serfati adds: "The two devices are compatible and the information initially collected by the HeartStart FR2+ can be immediately used on the HeartStart MRx. This saves a considerable amount of time, and ensures the follow-up is carried out correctly".

"I must say that, under such conditions and in hostile environments, the Philips FR2+ and MRx defibrillators work faultlessly. We have also come to appreciate the sturdiness of these devices and their ease-of-use".

Simplicity and reliability

More specifically, the reliability of this type of equipment is essential for teams such as those of Aquatic Concept and the extreme conditions under which they work. Joeffrey Serfati is extremely pleased with the Philips defibrillators: "I must say that, under such conditions and in hostile environments, the Philips FR2+ and MRx defibrillators work faultlessly. We have also come to appreciate the sturdiness of these devices and their

ease-of-use". Joeffrey Serfati further adds that, "the HeartStart FR2+ automatic defibrillator is able to deliver a shock extremely rapidly, because of the Quick Shock function. The rescue teams really appreciate this. The lightness of this equipment and its autonomy are also significant, especially when you consider how much equipment our teams carry with them. Finally, intuitive and clear, visual and audio instructions from the machine is an added advantage of this type of device".

Tested under the most demanding conditions

Recently, the support and rescue teams used the Philips defibrillators during an offshore race in the Mediterranean. A boat overturned while travelling at 53 knots, falling on the skipper as it capsized, and seriously injuring him. The Aquatic Concept teams were following the race in another boat and the rescue team intervened in less





The HeartStart MRx provides the defibrillation and monitoring necessary to care for a patient until they can be transferred to the local medical services

than 12 minutes. With the doctors taking over soon after, they resuscitated the skipper in record time and, although he was seriously injured, he could be saved and transferred to hospital by helicopter. The entire rescue lasted no more than 40 minutes, despite taking place at sea, on a boat buffeted by waves under extremely wet conditions, while the race continued!

This shows how the rescuers, who were the first to arrive at the scene of the accident, were able to treat the injured person using the Philips HeartStart FR2+ defibrillator, and the doctors could continue with the Philips HeartStart MRx defibrillator when they arrived.

As can be seen by this example, under such conditions, the teams of Aquatic Concept cannot afford to make any mistakes. The lives of the people at risk depend on it. Joeffrey Serfati concludes: "We need to rely 100% on our equipment and the Philips defibrillators have never failed us. Without any doubt we owe a part of our success to such assured operation".

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