

## Transcript of News Radio 93.8FM Interview with Ms Sophia Salenius

Hello and welcome to Science and Technology Watch.

I'm Imelda Saad.

On the programme this week --

Protein recovered from dinosaur eggs.

But first -- A UK company develops a mobile tsunami warning system.

As the world grapples with yet another devastating earthquake and fears of a repeat of last December tsunamis, a UK company is trying to promote its mobile tsunami warning system.

RegPoint Ltd, the health services company says the system could potentially help save thousands of lives in a disaster.

But the catch -- it's reliant on the handphone.

Although almost ubiquitous, the drawback to the system is that it's dependent on subscription.

Warnings on impending natural disasters will only be delivered to mobile phone users who've subscribed to the service.

**The system though is brilliantly simple.**

It relies on SMS or GPRS, which means even when phonelines are down, data can still be sent.

RegPoint's Managing Director Sophia Salenius explains.

***There are actually 2 aspects to that. One is that first of all because we are giving warnings we do it before the tsunami would have hit and before the earthquake would have done anything but also in the case of when it had happen and this i know first hand, because one of our staff member was in Thailand when it happened -- and we could, real time, communicate via SMS because the data quantity in a text message or in a data file that we are sending , they could pass but they could not do any phonecalls***

RegPoint works with seismology experts from several countries.

Seismologists will send warning messages to mobile phone subscribers when they get dangerous earthquake readings.

Ms Salenius says warnings are sent almost instantaneously to the handphones.

***If we take the case in December, if it had been in place, the seismologists in Uppsala, which is an authorised authority, they receive the warning or the registration of the earthquake 11 minutes after it happened. Now if you recall it took one and a half hours for the first wave to reach Thailand and another hour to reach Sri Lanka and India. Now we could have sent out this warning in 15 minutes after the earthquake. Which means that, that would have been an encrypted file, with the data -- actually the warning -- and that had been sent to each and everyone who subscribed for our service and had it on their handphone...regardless whatever operator they have.***

The system is currently being used in the medical sector for tracing the SARS and Avian Flu virus.

Ms Salenius tells me she's in talks with travel agencies to offer system as part of a travel insurance plan.

***I actually just returned from Canada where we just had a fairly long discussion about including this into the service that the world travel protection organisation is doing. And they have for example 3 million corporate customers in North America. And they believe it would be helpful for them and also they would welcome a service like this. So, people who travel alot, they could know where there are danger, floods, epidemics, earthquakes, volcanoes, anything. So that they can adjust their travel plans after that.***

The RegPoint system is meant to complement the international tsunami warning system.

The idea is that with wireless technology, information can be sent to anyone around the world, within minutes.

That's all for this week's Science and Technology Watch.

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I'm Imelda Saad, for NewsRadio 938.

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