

**NORIT NV**

**For immediate release**

**The Norit Executive Board of Directors regrets to inform you that Gerard McDonnell, member of the Norit K2 Expedition 2008, died while descending from the K2 Summit. We deeply sympathize with Mr. McDonnell's family in Ireland and his girlfriend Annie. Gerard was not only an experienced climbing partner, but also a good friend of the team.**

As released earlier, contact with McDonnell was unfortunately lost on his way down from the top. After extensive discussions with our team members and other climbers returning from their K2 summit, it was sadly concluded that McDonnell would not return from K2.

Wilco van Rooijen and Cas van de Gevel have been successfully airlifted to a hospital in Skardu, where doctors examined third degree frostbite on Van Rooijen's feet and Van de Gevel's hands. Following consultation with the expedition's physician Dr. Ronald Hulsebosch the decision was made that no immediate departure is necessary. The two will stay under medical supervision in Skardu.

The other team members, Pemba Gyalje Sherpa, Mark Sheen, Roeland van Oss, and Jelle Staleman played a crucial role during the extensive rescue efforts. All are exhausted, but in good health and preparing their departure from K2 Base Camp.

On behalf of the Norit K2 Expedition team we like to thank everyone for the support received during the past couple of days. After the exhausting rescue efforts and the sad news about the loss of McDonnell, the team has requested not to be contacted.

Please direct questions to Michel Schuurman, who is a member of the Norit K2 Expedition home team and is responsible for all communications. He can be reached at +31 30 6343476 or [info@incipit.nl](mailto:info@incipit.nl). The website [www.noritk2.nl](http://www.noritk2.nl) will continue to be updated with any additional developments on the expedition.

For further information, please contact:

Norit NV  
Menno M. Holterman  
Executive Board of Directors  
T +31 6 22451781  
E [m.holterman@noritpt.com](mailto:m.holterman@noritpt.com)  
I [www.norit.com](http://www.norit.com)